Ninth Circuit turns down Montgomery's petitions. PAGE 5
4-H Marianas delegates represent NMI in DC. PAGE 12

Hafa Adai!

75¢

Saipan Tribune

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Over 10 wildfires in a week

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

In the span of just a week, the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services responded to over 10 wildfires across the CNMI.

Wildland fires—also known as brush fires, forest fires, grass fires, etc.—have become rampant in the CNMI, attributed to the Commonwealth's early transition into

See WILDFIRES on Page 4

Photo posted by the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services on its Facebook page shows one of the seven grass fires reported yesterday. DFEMS said that majority of yesterday's wildfires occurred in the northern side of Saipan.
DFEMS

'DPL doing its duties under mandate'

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Last part of a two-part series

Concepcion-Teregeyo

The Department of Public Lands insists it is doing everything in its powers to fulfill its duties to meet its mandate when the agency was created in February 2006. Those responsibilities include implementing a homestead program, settling land claims, leasing and permitting of idle public lands for commercial use.

This was contained in acting DPL secretary Marianne Concepcion-Teregeyo's six-page response to the Office of the Public Auditor in its investigation of

See DPL on Page 4

April 22: Employers' 1st PWS deadline

The first round of the 2019 CNMI Prevailing Wage Survey will end on April 22, 2019. That's this Monday.

Employers must submit their employee wage data before this deadline to be processed within the first tabulation of wages. If they fail to meet that deadline, the employer may ex-

See PWS on Page 4

TO ACCESS ONLINE SURVEY

Go to https://www.cnmiprevailingwage.com and download the 2019 Prevailing Wage Survey form. The survey must be completed and emailed to cnmi.csd@commerce.gov.mp.

Any employer having difficulty filling out the survey or needing additional assistance may send an email to info@cnmiprevailingwage.com or contact the CNMI Department of Labor at 664-3196/664-3190.

MINI-COURSE WEEK

With the help of Tribe Marianas, a mix of students learned advanced digital filmmaking as part of Mount Carmel School's annual Mini-Course Week, during which alternative courses are taught students. Mini-Course Week gives junior high and high school teachers and students a chance to take a break from traditional academic instruction and dabble in hobbies and interests that engage students in hands-on learning.
MCS

See story on Page 6

INSIDE

NATION
A teenager who was obsessed with the Columbine shooting is found dead in an apparent suicide.
PAGE 20

WORLD
Former President Alan Garcia mortally wounded himself with a gunshot to his head.
PAGE 22

LIFE & STYLE
Time's Magazine has released its annual "100 Most Influential People in the World" issue.
PAGE 25

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Local

2 Superior Court staff directed to talk about court interpreters

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho ordered two court staff yesterday to testify about the issue governing interpreters in connection with a murder case.

Camacho said director of Courts Sonia Camacho and Limited English Proficiency coordinator Vivian S. Dela Cruz will be summoned to testify in court.

Camacho set the hearing for May 15 at 9am on defendant Alfonso Sebastian Parongan's motion for the court to provide and pay for a Tagalog interpreter.

The judge said Parongan and the Office of the Attorney General may also call other witnesses.

In Parongan's motion, assistant public defender Heather M. Zona had questioned the court's act requiring the Office of the Public Defender to provide the Tagalog interpreter.

Zona argued that assigning OPD the task of finding interpreters violates both Commonwealth law and Parongan's constitutional and civil rights.

The OAG charged Parongan for allegedly repeatedly stabbing her in Chalan Kanoa in 2017, killing her.

The landlord's husband was also injured during the attack.

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'Shake-and-bake' defendant asks for leniency

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

David Muña Sablan is asking the federal court for leniency in connection with the crime that he committed when he left two bags in Garapan that were found to contain chemicals and items used in making methamphetamine or "ice" through the "shake-and-bake" method.

Sablan, through his lawyer Janet H. King, has asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to sentence him at the lowest end of the sentencing guidelines or even lower.

Sablan's crime is punishable by a prison sentence between 57 and 71 months.

Sablan pleaded guilty to conspiracy to manufacture methamphetamine. His sentencing will be on Wednesday at 9am.

King recommended an intensive drug treatment for Sablan, so he can continue to be sober, thus allowing him to enroll so he could obtain his GED, any vocational training, or higher education courses.

King said her client readily admitted his role in this case to the Drug Enforcement Administration.

Sablan, 40, has four children.

King said Sablan's arrest on March 15, 2018, comes at the end of nearly a decade of drug addiction.

"Mr. Sablan is best remembered by his family and friends as a good person who made bad decisions but, most of all, he is remembered as a talented and passionate basketball player," the lawyer said.

From his youth, defendant was exposed to rampant drug use by his neighbors, friends, and even family, King said. He was only able to avoid the trouble of the streets by turning to basketball, which he credits as "saving him."

She said with his dedication to the sport, Sablan was able to make it into the CNMI national teams that competed in Palau and Guam.

"…Mr. Sablan was a star on his teams, he was the scoring leader, MVP, and pivotal to their success," King said.

In his early 20s, Sablan found a love for coaching basketball and helped organize a basketball league for teenagers and young adults in the community.

King said while Sablan was coaching, he made it clear that drugs were unwelcome around the courts and would not let the children smoke even a cigarette.

Near the end of the 2000s, Sablan and his wife's marriage became strained, King said. Sablan then stopped playing basketball and started associating with troubled people that introduced him to gambling and drugs. He hid his addiction and drifted away from his family and friends.

"Instead of putting his life back together, he was falling further into the influence of addicts and dealers," she said.

King said Sablan feels that, when he leaves prison, he can use his experience to reach out in the community and that Sablan wants to rebuild his relationship with his children.

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‘Easter is a time of renewal of our faith’

Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang is reminding the public to remember the meaning of Easter Sunday this weekend—as an opportunity to renew one’s faith and as a new beginning.

“I encourage everyone to reflect on actions and decisions we have made and ask for clear guidance and strength from the Lord,” he said in a Good Friday message his office released yesterday. “Each one of us makes our community. A community of peace, understanding, respect, perseverance, humility, and love is what everyone should aspire to maintain and preserve.”

Apatang added that Easter is a time to reflect on past actions and decisions for clear guidance and strength.

“In recent past, we saw ourselves come a long way, despite the chaotic and very difficult period everyone went through as we picked up the pieces after Super Typhoon Soudelor and Super Typhoon Yutu,” he said. “We are here today because of our commitment to each other to lend a helping hand to those who dearly need it.”

“This Good Friday and Easter Sunday, we must all come together and strengthen the bonds that hold us together as a caring and loving community, and promise to continue this commitment in perpetuity,” he said.

The Saipan Mayor’s Office took the lead in preparing the Mt. Tapochau road for today’s pilgrims, who will walk up the mountain. ***(Erwin Encinares)***

ANIMAL LOVERS ALL

Tinian Mayor Edwin Aldan, center, poses with Saipan Cares for Animals president Beth Pliscou, fourth from left, and SCA volunteers on Tinian. A total of 48 cats and dogs were spayed and neutered at the Tinian Youth Center over the weekend. Next up is a spay and neutering clinic on Rota. It is going to be a four-day clinic starting this Sunday, April 21, to Wednesday, April 24. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy birthday greetings go out Sheena F. Maratita! Enjoy your special day. We love you! Greetings come from the family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

DPL

From Page 1

a public land that is leased to A&M Corp. of Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios. The report kept referring to Lease L9104S. *Saipan Tribune* archives show that this lease refers to Lot No. 057 E 05 that is leased to Palacios.

OPA, through Public Auditor Michael Pai, said that DPL—previously the Marianas Public Land Corp.—failed to fulfill its duty in handling Lease L9104S like not properly collecting the amount owed by the lessee that already reached an approximate amount of $185,000. Teregeyo, however, said the calculation was from a privileged attorney-client memo date June 8, 2018, while also collecting the rental, holdover, and interest fees.

OPA found that, although DPL’s revised billing—prepared on Aug. 1, 2018—is in compliance with the June 8, 2018, direction of the the Office of the Attorney General, they failed to properly assess and collect the lease rental fees based on the terms of the lease and the amendments, and by not enforcing the timely submission of required documents.

“In addition, DPL did not take into account the date the adjacent parcel was physically utilized or encroached upon by the lessee prior to the second amendment to the lease agreement,” said the OPA report.

Teregeyo said that OPA’s statement that DPL lacks documents in receiving the business gross revenue taxes is not true.

“That is an incorrect statement. All BGRT forms have been submitted under this lease. …No additional rental was due from the lessess as the rental is greater than the 3 percent of the BGRT,” she said in her response.

“Perhaps, it is OPA’s understanding that BGRT is charged automatically. However, the lease reads ‘lessee shall pay to corporation in the manner prescribed herein any surplus resulting from subtracting 3 percent of the gross receipts.’ …Therefore, this should be removed [that] DPL did not fail to collect BGRT. The assumption that DPL did not collect BGRT is wrong,” she added.

Teregeyo said the issue that OPA repeatedly raised in its report is based on the appraisal report, which is the responsibility of the lessee—not DPL. “If the lessee fails to submit the appraisal report on time, DPL charges interest rates for the appraisal rates when the appraisal reports are submitted. Further, if the lease was signed in 1990, then the next appraisal is due on 2000 and 2010.”

She added that the required appraisal report due on December 2000 was submitted in August 2014. “On Feb. 28, 2005, lessee submitted the first appraisal report prepared by MRT Corp. and the report was reviewed by DPL internal appraiser on Aug. 28, 2006, with recommendation to return report to address the internal appraiser’s concerns and recommendations.”

The appraisal company, MRT Corp., however, closed down and could no longer revise its appraisal.

Teregeyo said the current management team at DPL could no longer do anything about the mistakes of its predecessors but they are doing everything in their power to fulfill the duties that were given to them. “DPL is addressing internal controls and measures to tighten internal processes to ensure that DPL protects our beneficiaries, people of Northern Marianas descent.”

“I have held employees accountable for their actions and or inactions, and always impress on director’s meetings, Directive 5 meetings, [and] management meetings the importance of ensuring that DPL bills and collects for usage of public lands.”

The OPA report was called an “Inspection of DPL’s Assessment and Collection Fees for Lease No. L9104S.”

WILDFIRES

From Page 1

a drought season that is being blamed on an early onset of the Pacific-wide El Niño phenomenon.

In the past week alone, the CNMI saw roughly over 10 wildland fires, according to the DFEMS Facebook page.

On Saipan, DFEMS’ wildland fire fighting team responded to about nine wildland fires since last Friday. Wildland fires were seen in Kagman, Tanapag, As Gonno, As Terlaje, near Banzai Cliff, and near Paupau beach.

There have also been two wildland fires on Rota throughout the course of the week and about two on Tinian.

Yesterday alone, seven wildland fires erupted across Saipan—from Kagman all the way down to As Gonno. As of 6:40 last night, one of the bigger fires in Tanapag had not been contained yet and was last reported moving toward Wireless Ridge, an area that is notorious for grass fires.

In a previous article on the *Saipan Tribune*, it stated that the dry season is expected to last until May.

In the past month, prior to the eruption of wildland fires this past week, the DFEMS fought and contained over seven wildland fires on the islands of Saipan and Tinian.

Fortunately, according to DFEMS spokesperson Derek Gersonde, the CNMI has a team of seasoned wildland fire fighters.

Gersonde explains that wildland fires are fought differently than structure fires, which are primarily extinguished with water.

Wildland firefighters, however, are trained to use tools such as rakes, shovels, etc., to contain wildland fires from extending further out and to make the right calls whether the fire should be put out with water or if it’s safe to let the fire continue to burn because it won’t harm crops or structures and is on its way dying out on its own.

Wildland fires are a relatively normal occurrence during the islands’ dry season.

PWS

From Page 1

perience a delay in receiving the prevailing wage for their employees’ industries.

This year’s survey is a condensed questionnaire intended to provide an accurate wage for businesses to plan for your labor needs under the Northern Mariana Islands U.S. Workforce Act of 2018.

DOL message

Labor Secretary Vicky Benavente is calling on all businesses to complete the 2019 CNMI Prevailing Wage Survey before the April 22 deadline.

In a conference call with the U.S. Department of Labor officials, the need for a full cross-industry representation in the survey was reiterated to Benavente and Division of Employment Services director Eugene Tebuteb.

“The CNMI Department of Labor strongly advises businesses to respond to the prevailing wage survey in order for accurate data to be generated for specific occupations in the CNMI,” said Benavente. “We cannot emphasize enough the importance of responding to and submitting the prevailing wage survey.”

How to

Detailed instructions on how to fill out the form can be found on the front page of www.cnmiprevailingwage.com. Answers to frequently-asked-questions such as how to record earnings, overtime pay, and reference period can be found at www.cnmiprevailingwage.com/faq.

All forms needed to complete the PWS can be downloaded at www.cnmiprevailingwage.com. Once the survey is completed, email it directly to cnmi.csd@commerce.gov.mp with the subject line “2019 CNMI PWS”. Forms must be submitted as Excel files (i.e., not PDF).

Fill out all the listed fields with the required information and use the provided resources to ensure your employee data is accurate and correctly formatted. Errors in formatting or the presence of omissions will prevent the timely calculation of prevailing wages.

If you own two or more businesses, fill out one survey per business. If you are an agent of multiple businesses, provide this survey to your client(s).

For additional questions not found at www.cnmiprevailingwage.com/faq, employers may call (670) 664-3006/7 or emailinfo@cnmiprevailingwage.com for more information.

The survey is being conducted through a collaboration between the Office of the Governor, the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, the U.S. Department of Labor, CNMI Department of Labor, and the CNMI Central Statistics Division under the CNMI Department of Commerce. They encourage the Commonwealth’s businesses and employers to participate in the 2019 CNMI Prevailing Wage Survey before submitting CW-1 applications and petitions for renewals.

Under the Northern Mariana Islands US Workforce Act of 2018, the CNMI must have a prevailing wage survey each calendar year in order for USDOL to issue a temporary employment certification. For this reason, it is of the utmost importance for employers to submit their employee wage data before April 22, 2019. ***(PR)***

Ninth Circuit turns down Montgomery's 2 petitions

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit denied yesterday two petitions for rehearing of a motion for sentence reduction requested by former businessman Bert Douglas Montgomery, who was handed a 20-year prison sentence in 2003 for his role in a conspiracy to defraud the Bank of Saipan.

Ninth Circuit Judges William C. Canby Jr., A. Wallace Tashima, and Michelle T. Friedland said the panel has also voted to deny Montgomery's petition for panel rehearing.

» Will no longer entertain filings

Canby, Tashima, and Friedland said the full court has been advised of Montgomery's petition for rehearing en banc and no judge has requested a vote on whether to rehear the matter.

An en banc refers to a session in which a case is heard before all the judges of the court. A panel hearing is heard before the court's selected judges.

The Ninth Circuit judges also denied Montgomery's motion challenging the constitutionality of the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines.

"No further filings will be entertained in this closed case," the judges said.

Last December, the 9th Circuit affirmed the U.S. District Court for the NMI's order that denied Montgomery's motion to have his sentence reduced.

Montgomery appealed *pro se* or without a lawyer.

In December 2013, then-U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex R. Munson imposed a 20-year prison term on Montgomery for a count of conspiracy to commit wire fraud, two counts of wire fraud, and one count of wire fraud: deprivation of honest services, one count of money laundering conspiracy, and three counts of money laundering.

Munson ordered Montgomery to pay jointly with his two co-defendants $5.2million in restitution to Bank of Saipan and $109,980 to Michelle Hom, a bank customer.

One of Montgomery's co-defendants killed himself in August 2003.

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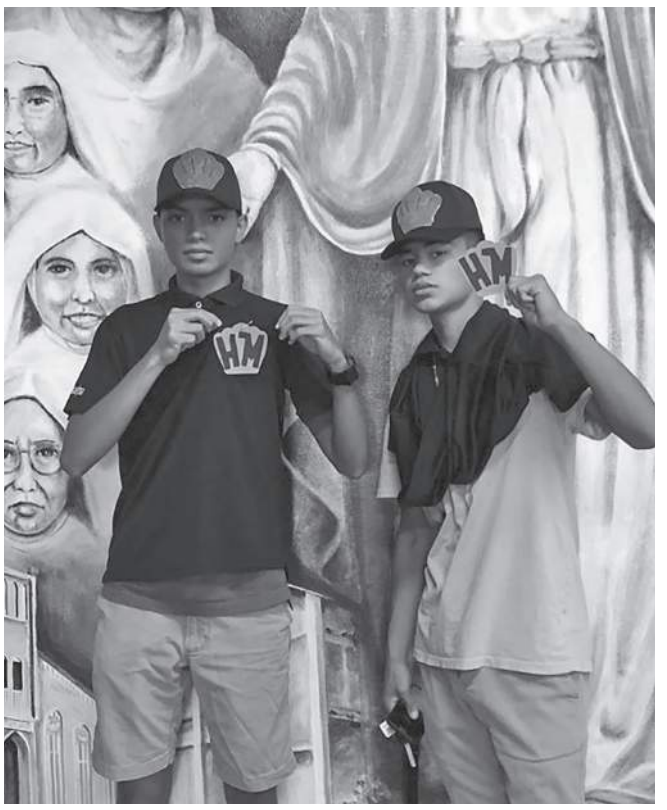
ANNUAL MINI-COURSE WEEK

MCS students learn cooking, sewing, filmmaking, etc.

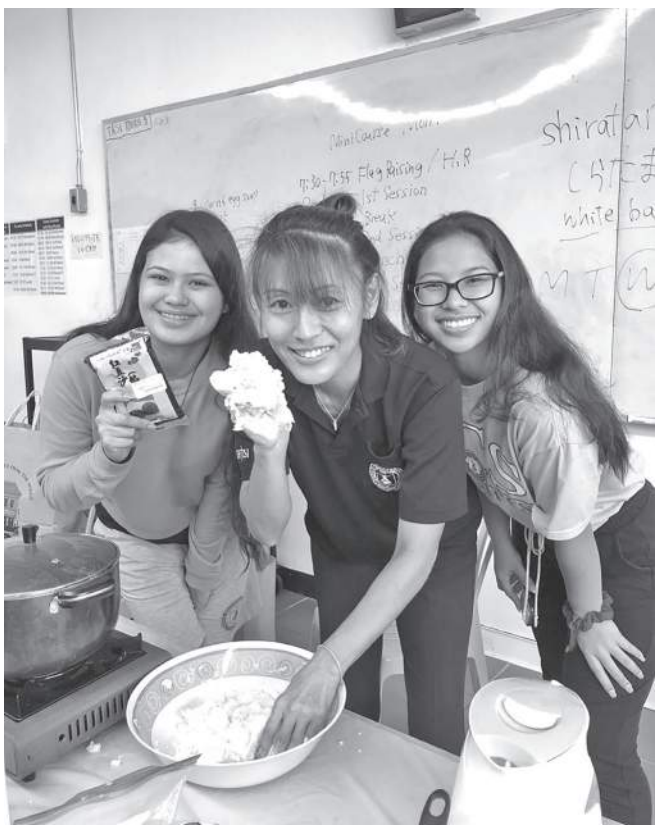
Cooking. Painting. Stitching. These are just a few of the dozens of alternative courses that were taught this past week at Mount Carmel School as part of Mini-Course Week.

In its 23rd year at the school, Mini-Course Week gives junior high and high school teachers and students a chance to take a break from traditional academic instruction and dabble in hobbies and interests that engage students in hands-on learning.



Juniors learn how to stitch their own embroidery into their clothes as part of Mount Carmel School's annual Mini-Course Week.
MCS

Sixth-grade Mount Carmel School students returned to classic board games as part of Mount Carmel School's annual Mini-Course Week.
MCS



Seniors learn how to make traditional Japanese food with sensei Akemi Ishikawa, center, as part of Mount Carmel School's annual Mini-Course Week.
MCS

This year's mini-courses is the sixth and last year for senior and Student Council officer Rosa Castro, who has looked forward to the week every year. "I really enjoyed this year's mini-course! I learned new Japanese dishes and painting on the canvas' was cool," she said. "It's a bittersweet moment because I always look forward to this week during the school year and I'm a bit sad that it's our last mini-course."

School president Galvin Deleon Guerrero is very happy that the school has continued Mini-Course Week for more than two decades. "Mini-Course Week is a great way to expand our understanding of schooling to include things that people are passionate about," said Deleon Guerrero. "And it's great to see everyone having fun while learning.

Mini-Course Week featured a wide array unique courses, including rosary making, computer coding, lollipop making, knitting, basic farming, and filmmaking. ***(PR)***

Mount Carmel School senior Maria Terlaje learn how to paint her own landscape as part of Mount Carmel School's annual Mini-Course Week.
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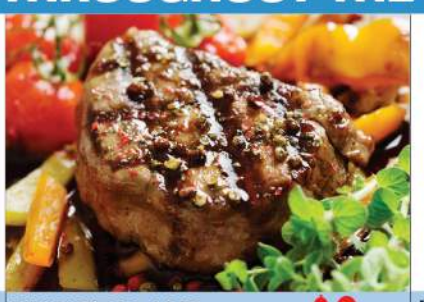

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Pacifica offers $5K prize at HANMI tournament

Pacifica Insurance is offering a $5,000 hole-in-one prize at the 18th Annual HANMI Charity Classic Golf Tournament on May 11, 2019, at Laolao Bay Golf & Resort west course.

"On behalf of the staff and management of Pacifica Insurance, I'd like to thank [the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands] for their charitable efforts and contributions to the hospitality of our islands over the years," said Pacifica Insurance marketing coordinator Samantha Sikayun. "Our partnership with our hotels is key to ensuring a thriving economy."

"We'd extend a big 'thank you' to Pacifica Insurance for their generous donation for this year's HANMI Charity Classic Golf Tournament," said tournament chair Steve Bakarishna. "Five thousand dollars is nice bit of money, and we hope one lucky golfer will hit it this year."

Additional hole-in-one prizes include a 2019 Mitsubishi Eclipse Cross from Triple J Motors, $20,000 from LT Travel, and $20,000 from Century Tours.

The tournament is open to the first 144 paid registrants and follows a blackjack double Peoria format. Cash, cars, hotel night stays, and other prizes await the winners. The early bird tournament fee is $100 for those who register by 5pm next Friday, April 26.

The fee increases to $120 after the early bird deadline. The fee includes green fee and the awards banquet. For an additional $30, players may also compete for optional play prizes, including Accurate Drive on Line (#9), Accurate Drive Circle (#5), Aggressive Drive (#12), Longest Drive (#18), and Nearest to the Pin (#3, #7, #13, #17).

The tournament will start at 7am, and the awards banquet will be held the same day at 6pm at Grandvrio Resort Saipan. Registration forms are now available at: Laolao Bay Golf & Resort, Pacific Islands Club Saipan, Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, Hyatt Regency Saipan, or www.facebook.com/HANMI670.

For more information, contact Balakrishna at steve.balakrishna@picsaipan.com or 1.670.234.7976 or visit www.facebook.com/HANMI670. ***(PR)***

Scheduled power interruptions

There will be scheduled power interruptions on the following dates, times and locations:

- **Monday, April 22, 2019 – 8:30am to 4:30pm**
  - ❑ Outage type: Sectionalized feeder outage on the Kiya 1 distribution circuit
  - ❑ Project Village location: Obyan
  - ❑ Power Service area(s) affected: Torres Farm
  - ❑ Water service are(s) affected: Obyan
  - ❑ Water service will be interrupted during the power outage period for: None
  - ❑ Wastewater lift station(s) affected: None
  - ❑ Work to be performed: Replace 10 wooden poles with concrete poles
- **Tuesday, April 23, 2019 – 8:30am to 12:30pm**
  - ❑ Outage type: Sectionalized feeder outage on the Kiya 1 distribution circuit
  - ❑ Project Village location: Obyan
  - ❑ Power service area(s) affected: Obyan
  - ❑ Water service area(s) affected: Obyan
  - ❑ Wastewater service area(s) affected: None
  - ❑ Work to be performed: Replace seven wooden poles with concrete poles
- **Tuesday, April 23, 2019 – 1:00pm TO 6:00pm**
  - ❑ Outage type: Sectionalized lateral outage on the Kiya 4 distribution circuit
  - ❑ Project Village location: Chalan Kanoa
  - ❑ Power service area(s) affected: Mount Carmel Cathedral Church
  - ❑ Water service area(s) affected: None
  - ❑ Wastewater service area(s) affected: None
  - ❑ Work to be performed: Replace two wooden poles with concrete poles
- **Wednesday, April 24, 2019 – 8:30am to 12:30pm**
  - ❑ Outage type: Sectionalized feeder outage on the Kiya 1 distribution circuit
  - ❑ Project Village location: Obyan
  - ❑ Power service area(s) affected: Obyan
  - ❑ Water service area(s) affected: None
  - ❑ Wastewater service area(s) affected: None
  - ❑ Work to be performed: Replace two wooden poles with concrete poles
- **Wednesday, April 24, 2019 – 8am to 4pm**
  - ❑ Outage type: Sectionalized lateral outage on the Feeder 4 distribution circuit
  - ❑ Project Village location: Kagman III
  - ❑ Power service area(s) affected: Lalanghita Road, Kagman III
  - ❑ Water service area(s) affected: Entire Kagman area will be affected dependent on water tank level
  - ❑ Wastewater service area(s) affected: None
  - ❑ Work to be performed: Replace five wooden poles with concrete poles
- **Saturday, April 27, 2019 – 8am to 4pm**
  - ❑ Outage type: Sectionalized feeder outage on the Feeder 4 distribution circuit
  - ❑ Project Village location: Kagman
  - ❑ Power service area(s) affected: Kagman 1, Kagman 2, Kagman 3 and Kagman 4
  - ❑ Water service area(s) affected: Kagman, Papago and San Vicente
  - ❑ Wastewater service area(s) affected: None
  - ❑ Work to be performed: Replace seven wooden poles with concrete poles
- **Saturday, April 27, 2019 – 8am to 4pm**
  - ❑ Outage type: Sectionalized feeder outage on the Kiya 1 distribution circuit
  - ❑ Project Village location: San Vicente
  - ❑ Power service area(s) affected: San Vicente and Papago
  - ❑ Water service area(s) affected: San Vicente, Papago and Portions of Dandan
  - ❑ Wastewater service area(s) affected: None
  - ❑ Work to be performed: Replace seven wooden poles with concrete poles
- **Sunday, April 28, 2019 – 8am to 4pm**
  - ❑ Outage type: Sectionalized feeder outage on the Kiya 4 distribution circuit
  - ❑ Project Village location: Susupe
  - ❑ Power service area(s) affected: Beach Road, Susupe (CNMI District Court House to Mount Carmel Church)
  - ❑ Water service area(s) affected: None
  - ❑ Wastewater service area(s) affected: A-5, A-6, A-9 and A-11
  - ❑ Work to be performed: Replace seven (7) wooden poles with concrete poles
- **Monday, April 29, 2019 – 8am to 4pm**
  - ❑ Outage type: Sectionalized feeder outage on the Feeder 4 distribution circuit
  - ❑ Project Village location: Kagman III
  - ❑ Power service area(s) affected: Lalanghita Road, Kagman III
  - ❑ Water service area(s) affected: Entire Kagman area will be affected dependent on water tank level
  - ❑ Wastewater service area(s) affected: None
  - ❑ Work to be performed: Replace five (5) wooden poles with concrete poles

The purpose of these power interruptions is to de-energize utility lines and allow power line workers from the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s contracting company, Primary Source Electric, to safely replace 52 wooden poles with concrete poles.

The ongoing pole replacement projects are a result of CUC's FEMA Water Mitigation Project and the ongoing restoration efforts following Super Typhoon Yutu.

Because of the scale of work that will be performed, CUC asks travelers to take alternate routes or to exercise caution when driving through the working area.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor CUC's Facebook page for the latest updates (https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/). ***(PR)***

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Easter Greetings! From Triple J Saipan

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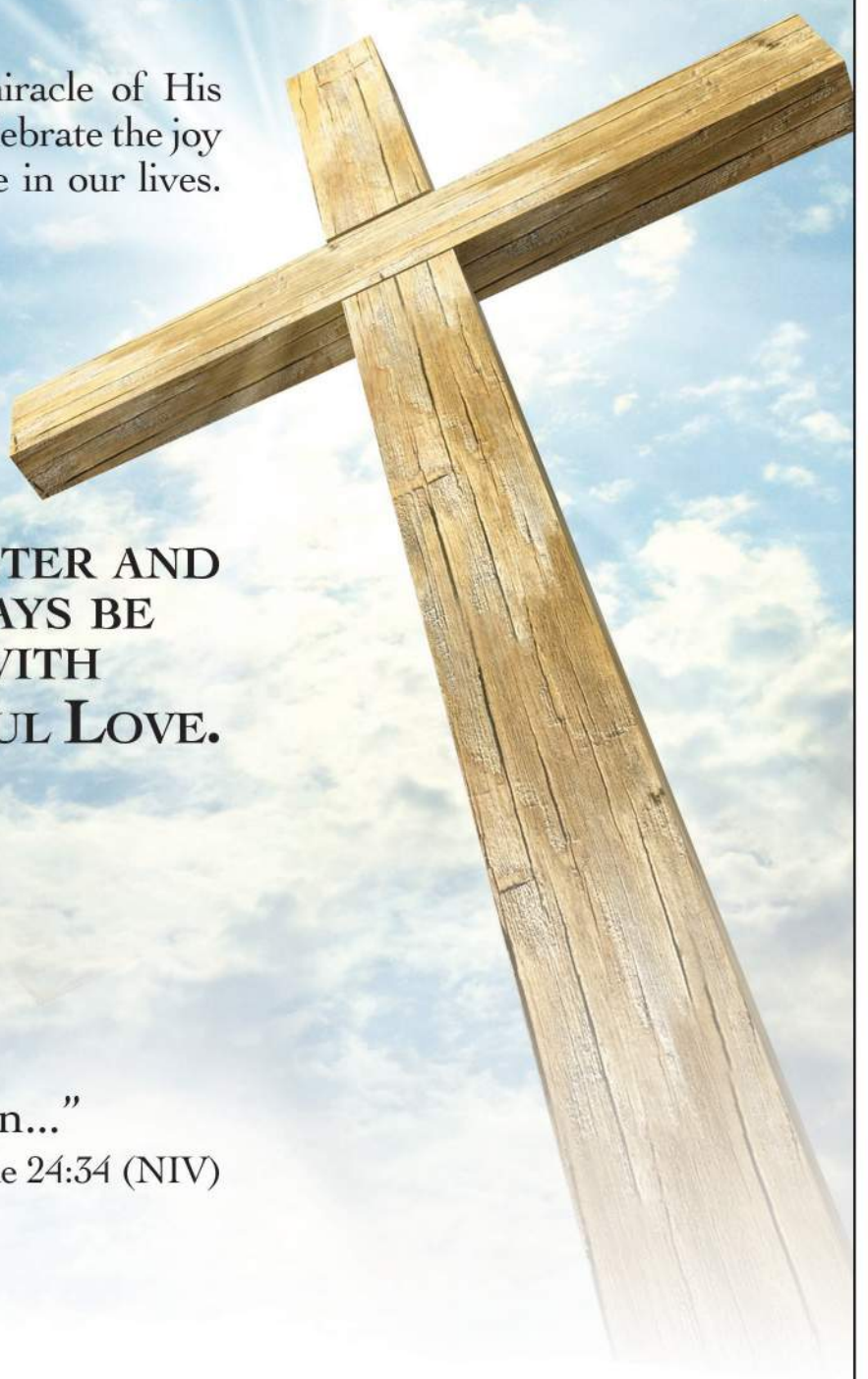

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"...It is true!
The Lord has risen..."
Luke 24:34 (NIV)

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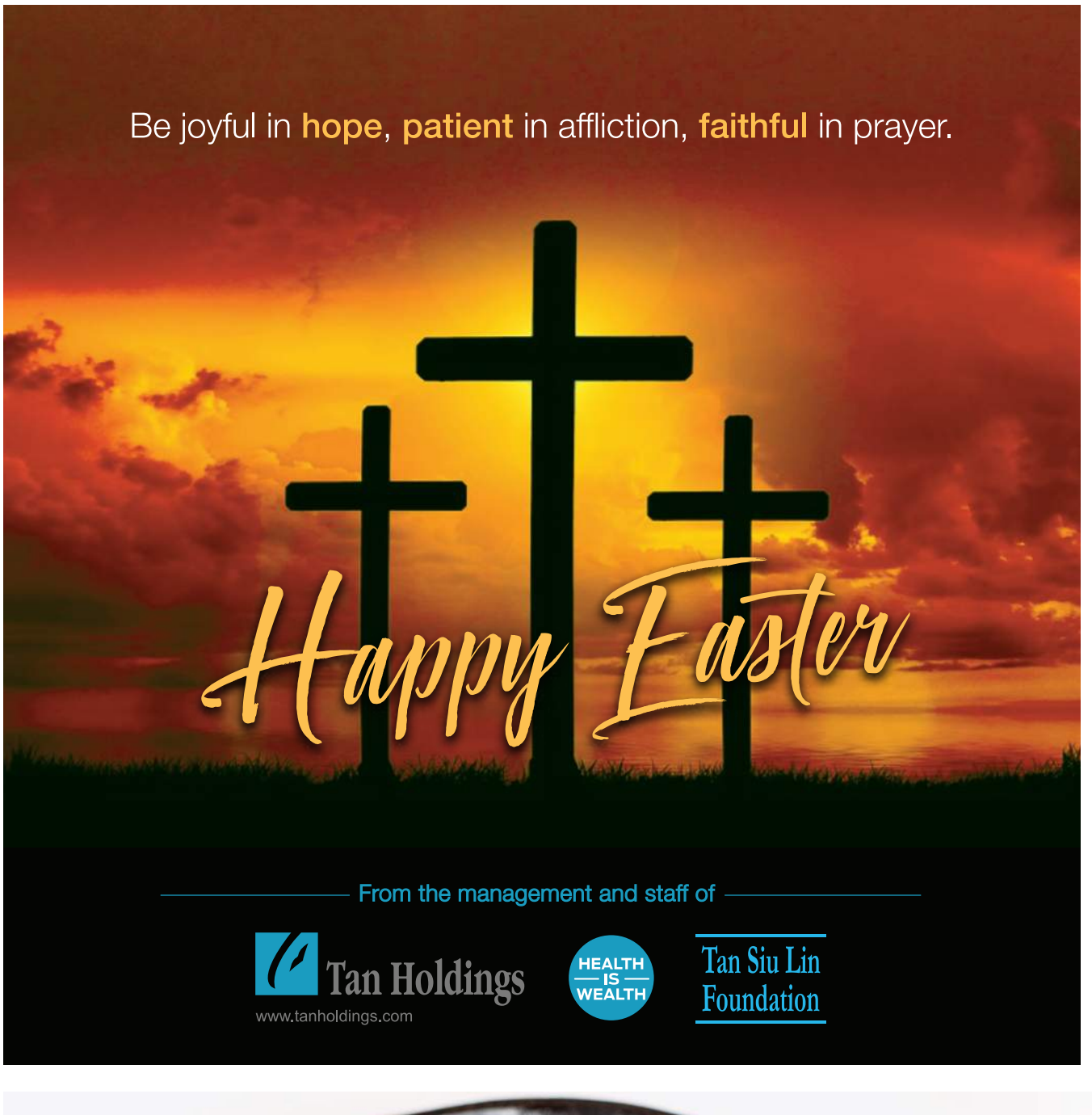
Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.
Happy Easter
From the management and staff of
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Tan Siu Lin Foundation

CPA repairs burn pit

The Commonwealth Ports Authority will be able to facilitate training for airport and local firefighters throughout the Pacific region once its training facility/burn pit, which was destroyed by Super Typhoon Yutu, becomes operational.

CPA executive director Christopher S. Tenorio said Wednesday that repairs of the training facility/burn pit are ongoing.

There is no known date yet as to when the repairs would be completed.

The Pacific Region ARFF/Aviation Training Center has been a revenue-generating section of CPA since 2005. It provides training to firefighters throughout Micronesian each year.

Yutu damaged the facility in October 2018.

In addition to firefighting training, CPA said PRATC expanded its curriculum to include aviation courses.

To date, PRATC has conducted one aviation course and is looking forward to expand its curriculum to be able to offer up to 14 courses. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Water service interruption

Commonwealth Utilities Corp. customers in As Perdido, Koblerville, As Gonno, Afetnas, San Antonio, Chalan Kanoa, Susupe, San Jose, Oleai, and Chalan Laulau Beach Road (near the former Mayor's Office) will be experiencing low water pressure to no water due to an airlock in the system.

The air was introduced into the distribution system Wednesday afternoon when the Isley Tank, which supplies water to these areas, went below critical level, related to the loss of power supply to the Obyan water wells as part of the Super Typhoon Yutu restoration efforts.

CUC water operations personnel have been working all day on slowly bleeding air pockets in the distribution system to help increase water pressure to the affected areas.

Water pressure is anticipated to be restored to normal working pressure to the affected areas within the next 24 hours.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center at 664-4282. ***(PR)***

OPA staff gains designation as a certified fraud examiner

Wilma Atalig-Fejeran of the Office of the Public Auditor has passed the exam to gain the designation of Certified Fraud Examiner by the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners.

Atalig-Fejeran

She joins an elite group of professionals who are committed to protecting the global economy by exposing fraud and implementing procedures to prevent it from happening in the first place.

In order to become a CFE, Atalig-Fejeran has met a stringent set of criteria and passed a rigorous exam administered by the ACFE while also agreeing to abide by the CFE Code of Professional Ethics.

Atalig-Fejeran has also demonstrated knowledge in four areas critical to the fight against fraud: fraudulent financial transactions, fraud prevention and deterrence, legal elements of fraud, and fraud investigation.

The preparation materials and exam itself were made accessible to Atalig-Fejeran through a technical assistance grant from the Department of the Interior. OPA applied for and was awarded the grant in 2015.

Atalig-Fejeran has been employed with OPA since October 2003. She started as an administrative assistant, but later began work as an intern analyst with OPA's former Ethics and Compliance Division. In 2006, Atalig-Fejeran received her Associate of Applied Sciences in Business Administration with an emphasis in Computer Applications with cum laude honors. Later, she earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education from the Northern Marianas College in May 2009, where she was a *magna cum laude*.

Atalig-Fejeran is now an audit senior in the Audit Unit. Aside from in-house training at OPA, Atalig-Fejeran also attended a two-week training program called the Lakewood Experience sponsored by the Office of the Inspector General in Lakewood, Colorado in June 2016 as well as various trainings offered by the Association of Pacific Island Public Auditors and the USA Graduate School.

The ACFE is the world's largest anti-fraud organization and premier provider of anti-fraud training and education, with more than 85,000 members.

CFE designees represent the highest standards held by the association and possess expertise in all aspects of the anti-fraud profession. CFEs have the ability to: examine data and records to detect and trace fraudulent transactions; interview suspects to obtain information and confessions; write investigation reports; advise clients as to their findings; testify at trial; understand the law as it relates to fraud and fraud investigations; and identify the underlying factors that motivate individuals to commit fraud. CFEs on six continents have investigated more than a million suspected cases of civil and criminal fraud. ***(PR)***

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4-H Marianas delegates represent NMI in DC

By REICA RAMIREZ
reica.ramirez@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Youth delegates of 4-H Marianas prepare to meet Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) at the State Capitol. From left, Dan Salde, 4-H Marianas public relations officer; Tasi Long, 4-H Marianas Tinian representative; and Alyssa Attao, 4-H Marianas president. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

For the first time in CNMI history, 4-H Marianas delegates participated in the 2019 National 4-H Conference in Washington, D.C., joining other representatives from all across the United States, Canada, and Puerto Rico.

The CNMI delegation was composed of Alyssa Attao, 4-H Marianas president; Dan Salde, 4-H Marianas public relations officer; and Isa Long, 4-H Marianas Tinian representative.

Also called N4-HC, the conference gives the youth an opportunity to represent their state or territory as they learn and have hands-on educational activities, while discussing issues about the youth and their community.

Current issues addressed at the conference were also presented to many federal agencies and the U.S. Congress.

4-H Marianas is a nonprofit organization that educates the youth about the environment, healthy living, indigenous culture, and helping the community.

Speaking to *Saipan Tribune*, Attao said that attending N4-HC "was definitely a foot in the door" and will open more opportunities for the CNMI youth community to be nationally recognized.

Among the issues that the 4-H Marianas delegates talked about at the conference were mental health, bullying, and cyberbullying, Attao said, "[and] presented our island's perspective and our [proposed] solutions" to federal agencies, like the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

While in Washington, D.C., the young delegates also visited Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan and talked about what 4-H Marianas is currently doing in the CNMI and issues that concern the youth.

"We brought up the topic of mental health because we are concerned about the lack of knowledge, awareness, and actions surrounding the youth," Attao said.

And since May is Mental Health Month, Attao said that 4-H Marianas will be following up with Sablan's office on how they could work together "to make a positive change" in the community.

"4-H Marianas is very active within the community, from organizing our own programs to collaborating with other agencies on youth programming," she said.

Toward this end, the organization is currently participating in an initiative known as "Raise Your Hand," where people can support the 4-H program in their community by voting in an online poll. The territory with the highest number of votes will receive up to $20,000 that will go to education funding and more youth programs in the community. To vote, visit https://4-h.org/raise-your-hand/.

Preliminary hearing waived for man who tried to wound a police officer

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A man accused of trying to wound a police officer with a knife has waived his right to a preliminary hearing last Wednesday in Superior Court.

A preliminary hearing intends to determine whether there is probable cause to try an accused individual or not.

Daniel Jake Kaipat, 26, through his lawyer, Office of the Public Defender's Jean Pierre Nogues, waived his right to a preliminary hearing.

Superior Court Associate Judge Wesley Bogdan ordered Kaipat to return on April 29 to be arraigned.

Kaipat is charged with assault with a dangerous weapon, assault and battery, resisting arrest, criminal mischief, and disturbing the peace.

According to a declaration of probable cause, Kaipat allegedly swung a knife at a Department of Public Safety officer who was trying to disarm him.

On April 9, at about 8:21am, police responded to a disturbing-the-peace complaint at the Marine Beach in Kagman 3.

At the scene, police met with the callers, Kaipat's brother and mother, Marciano Kaipat and Josepha Kaipat, who warned police that Kaipat had been inhaling butane fumes and had a knife.

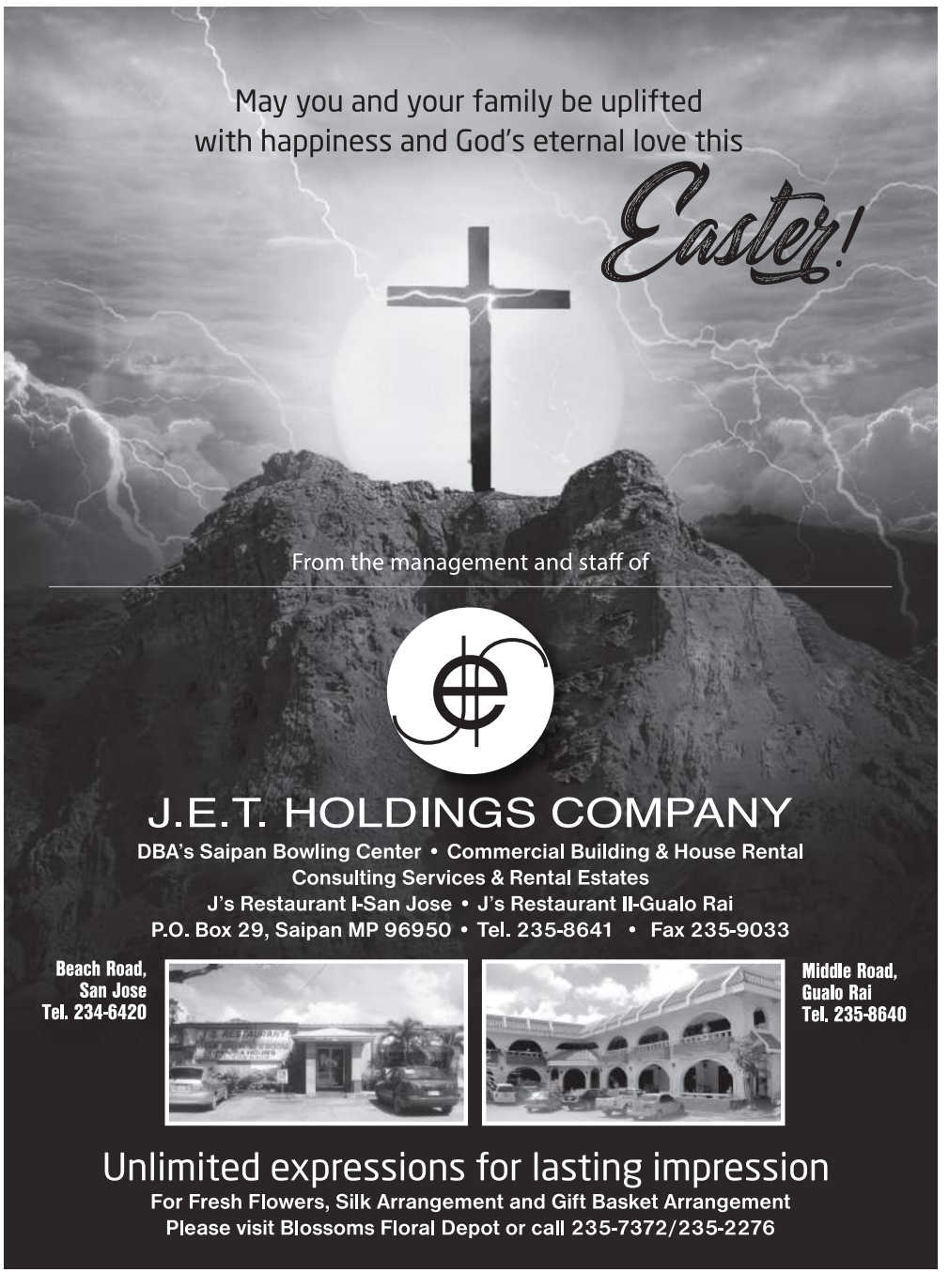
Josepha Kaipat tried to convince her son to give her the knife but Kaipat allegedly refused and pointed the blade tip at her and threatened to stab and kill her.

Police then stepped in and allegedly tried multiple times to convince Kaipat to cooperate with them but he would not comply and drop the knife.

One of the officers then used pepper spray on Kaipat who responded by swinging the knife at him. The officer managed to safely disarm Kaipat with his baton, while another officer restrained Kaipat and brought him to Department of Corrections.

Marciano later told police that earlier that day, he and Kaipat got into an altercation about a guitar and Kaipat used his head to hit Mariano's head, choked him, and pushed him.

Kaipat's bail was set at $10,000 but he has since been released to a third-party custodian.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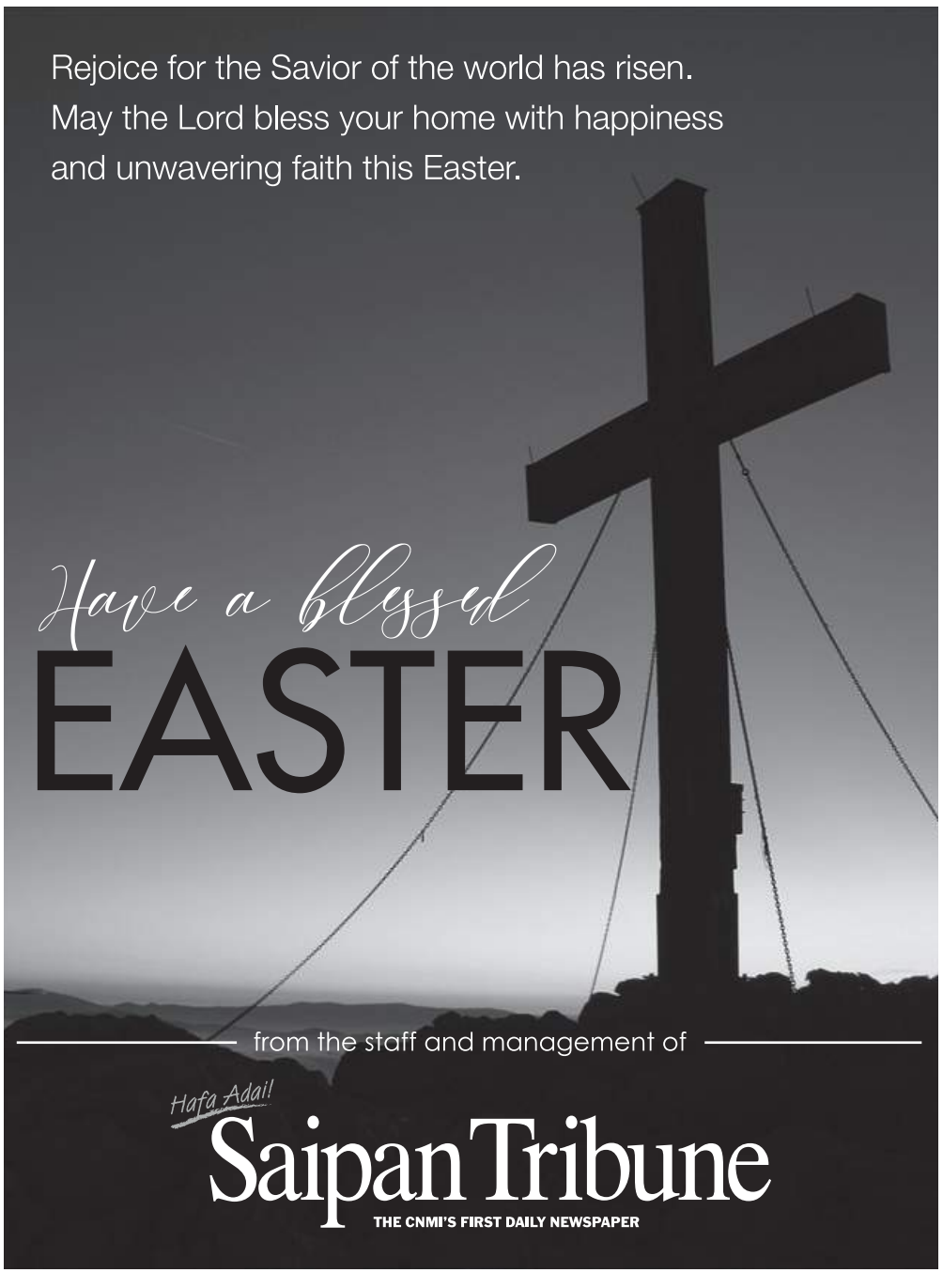
Rejoice for the Savior of the world has risen.
May the Lord bless your home with happiness
and unwavering faith this Easter.
Have a blessed
EASTER
from the staff and management of
Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Typhoon-resilience exercise

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. Air Force is scheduled to conduct an exercise with airmen and aircraft operating from Guam, Tinian, Saipan, Federated States of Micronesia (Yap), and Palau from April 22 to April 26.

The exercise, called Resilient Typhoon, involves fighter and mobility aircraft gathering at and then dispersing from Andersen Air Force Base in Guam, to airfields across Micronesia.

"We are grateful for the opportunity to train here and validate Pacific Air Forces' and our regional partners' ability to maintain readiness in support of this vital area," said Maj. Phil Ventura, a Pacific Air Forces spokesperson.

During the exercise, the public should expect to see and hear an increase in military aviation activities in and around the Antonio B. Won Pat International Airport in Guam; at the Tinian International Airport and Pedro P. Tenorio/Saipan International Airport in the

CNMI, at the Yap International Airport in the Federated States of Micronesia, and at the Babelthuap/Koror Airport of Palau.

"Our airmen are committed to operating in a safe and environmentally-conscious manner," Ventura said. "We look forward to working with our local partners and enjoying the world-renowned hospitality in Guam, the CNMI, FSM, and Palau." ***(PR)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Public library closed today

In observance of Good Friday, the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library will be closed today, April 19. The library will reopen on Saturday, April 20, from 9am to 4pm. ***(PR)***

Calling Class of 1981 high school graduates

Attention to all 1981 graduate(s) of Marianas High School, Dolphins 81, and off-Island graduates in Guam or the U.S. mainland that there will be a class reunion meeting on April 25, 2019, starting at 6pm at Tech-NIC Computer Gaming, above Sherwin Williams across Bank of Hawaii on Middle Road. ***(PR)***

Transfer station, landfill closed today

In observance of Good Friday, the Lower Base Transfer Station and the Marpi landfill will closed today, April 19, 2019. Both facilities will reopen on Saturday, April 20, 2019. ***(PR)***

Department of Agriculture phone lines out of service

Telephone lines for the Department of Agriculture's Director's Office, Forestry & Soil Resources, Animal Health/Animal Control, and Agriculture Development Services are currently not in service. Should you need to contact any of these divisions, call the Aquatic & Wildlife Division at 735-3955/56. ***(PR)***

USCIS to present naturalization information session in Guam next month

Officials from U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services will present a free information session to the public about citizenship and the naturalization process in Guam next month.

This session will take place at the Guam Public Library Hagatna branch.

USCIS will provide information about eligibility for citizenship, how to apply online, the English and civics tests, application forms and fees and how to best interact with USCIS about individual cases. Officials will also discuss ways to avoid becoming a victim of immigration scams and provide agency updates. Free educational materials will be given out, while supplies last. ***(PR)***

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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MEMBER

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Scenes of destruction shake us

By JULES WITCOVER
Tribune News Service

Jules Witcover's latest book is The American Vice Presidency: From Irrelevance to Power, *published by Smithsonian Books. You can respond to this column at juleswitcover@comcast.net.*

WASHINGTON—Nearly 18 years ago, my wife and I were in Versailles, about to tour that iconic palace, when French television showed the infamous destruction of New York's Twin Towers skyscrapers by two hijacked commercial aircraft.

Paris was plunged into mourning for the tragic deaths of nearly 3,000 innocent Americans. We raced to the Charles de Gaulle Airport outside Paris hoping for a return flight. There, a moment of silence was declared, as travelers of all nations froze in place in remembrance of the victims, with some travelers offering condolences to recognizable Americans at the airport.

Unsuccessful at first in our dealings with sympathetic French airline clerks, we returned to Paris and attended a long and solemn Mass at the Notre Dame Cathedral. French and American Catholics, along with hundreds of other Parisians and visitors to the City of Light, shared their grief as the magnificent cathedral organ filled one of the world's greatest architectural and religious edifices with music, along with voices of compassion and shared loss.

The long and close alliance of our two countries, forged in the fires of two horrible world wars survived by Paris, manifested itself in the outpouring of sympathy and support from our Gallic brothers.

On Monday, we watched American television bring a comparable view of shock and despair with the massive fire that was bringing down the famous spire of that same Notre Dame Cathedral, also decimating some of the rest of it.

Its age and wooden construction scaffolds provided ready tinder for a rampage of flame against firefighting men and equipment inadequate to the gigantic task of bringing the colossal tragedy to heel.

For hours, French authorities were at a loss to determine the cause, though many rumors rose and fell about the destruction, from allegations of carelessness among construction workers to unfounded speculation of arson or even sabotage.

Inevitably, the existing political climate of suspicion fanned rumors of terrorism or religious antagonism threatening to take hold in some quarters. But the only sensible course was to await responsible investigation into the cause.

Hours after the fire began, French officials began to report the likelihood that it probably was a case of carelessness or unintended accident. That tentative conclusion came to the huge relief of many who may have feared it the result of a diabolical plot that could feed further divisive suspicions of radicalism and organized chaos.

There was one obvious difference between the 9/11 catastrophe and the Notre Dame tragedy. The collapse of the Twin Towers occurred in plain sight, as two of the hijacked planes crashed into the two building, a third did the same at the Pentagon, and a fourth apparently was headed for another Washington target before being averted by courageous passengers. The Notre Dame

See SCENES on Next Page

Keeping graduates close

By WALTER V. WENDLER
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Walter V. Wendler is president of West Texas A&M University. His columns are available at http://walterwendler.com/.

Universities desire to keep alumni close by. Graduates are a testimony to an institution's progress and effectiveness—or not. More Harvard graduates live in Boston than any other place in the world. Cambridge can't hold them all. If an institution is doing a good job in educating people that help improve a community, it stands to reason it would like those graduates to stay close to home and contribute to the economy.

Traditional professional skills in engineering, business, nursing, education and other disciplines lead to pronounced economic development. However, the critical thinking skills and cultural contributions graduates make in a free society also have lasting value and create economic sustenance. Boundaries around positive economic disciplines and those that appear to have little utility send leaders on fool's errands. Well-educated people in every discipline cause economies to thrive or, if absent, starve.

Various stimuli lead graduates to stay close and create economic power. Things that encourage graduates to become neighbors of their institution and often their home towns also contribute to the alumni support base. This leads to increased philanthropy; the conditions are mutually supportive. Consider these five observations.

One: Treat students and graduates with dignity and respect through frequent, effective and honest communication. If leadership believes graduates are "meat on the hoof" for alumni support, or calculated as increased enrollments for state subsidy only, graduates will smell a rat and walk the opposite way for jobs and community engagement. They leave.

Two: Business, industry, commerce, educational institutions, hospitals and other enterprises that support a university and its students should be treated as if their interest and needs matter—because they do. A university should respond to local needs first. Business and commerce want the same things that universities want: Students who can think, like to be challenged, work hard and own a commitment to the region that is frequently close to their places of birth. When universities attend to the needs of commerce and industry, while simultaneously attending to the needs of the students, everyone wins. Industries support students, industries support the institution and the institution supports and responds to both. Industry and students alike want an educational institution that values the greater good of the student and the region with its collective enterprises.

Three: Local and state government contribute to the equation. The state supports universities in their effort to create an educated citizenry believing such citizenry generates a more effective state. When involved in a functioning partnership, private enterprise, the state and the university serve students well and, in turn, encourage students to enter the local workforce. The state's role culminates in appointing effective university leadership; however, it must be a two-way street. The institution's role is to make sure that graduates are well prepared and have been given effective educational opportunities. When that is the case, graduates, local enterprise, state government and the university form an effective partnership. In addition, local governments play a thoughtful and productive role. Effective governments support all members of the local educational and economic ecosystem.

Four: Families play a role in helping keep the economic development investment, i.e., the graduate, close. If families are supportive of the institution and the various members of the extended community, the likelihood of graduates remaining close to home increases. When that happens, two powerful results are realized. Economic impact creates local benefit. Secondly, productive family relationships are strengthened. There are many forces at work that impact the centrality of the family on American enterprise. Even with the dramatically changing definition of family, no force ever suggests that families are unimportant. They are the nucleus of a free society. They are the social bedrock. This is true even when human frailty challenges family structures. Families are the foundation of a free society powered by a free enterprise system. Proximity helps create positive long-term impact.

Five: When all of these entities work together to support students in the various aspects of the higher education and community experience, they will likely feel a greater affinity to the region and to the institution where they studied. The states that export the highest number of college students are in New England. Ultimately, the willingness of students to stay, study and work in their home states, impacts state economies. The same principles apply to other regions and states.

Keeping graduates close to home takes teamwork; however, the benefits create positive economic growth.

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Private industry expansion

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the* Saipan Tribune*.*

There was casual discussion among friends how do we get out of the economic contraction that has pushed both investments and revenues south.

Initially, I thought it could be done with a set of plans. But my hope was dashed by the departure of Nippon investments in recent past. Why did they leave?

The net effect is the huge loss in both money and jobs! Didn't anybody on the hill see this coming? It leaves mind-boggling uncertainty on the economic posture of the NMI, both short and long-term.

It means expansion of private industry is compromised, given the exit of the most powerful investment here. It's hard to expect appreciable growth when this happened. Shouldn't this be a matter of critical concern for the elected elite or "not yet, already?"

The contraction is nothing less than $7 billion. Add another $7 billion in rebuilding cost after two storms for a total of $14 billion that isn't being recycled in the local economy. How do we recoup such huge loss beyond vacuous posturing?

How do we restore credibility in our relationship with friends from the Land of the Rising Sun? Any idea how this could be re-established? Is a diabolic genius ready to embrace the challenge? It's all about good relationship and its refinement. But it's *sayonara*, isn't it? What's the local elite's reaction other than arrogance wrapped in ignorance and its grand excuse for complacency in "not yet, already!"

Shortfall: If you recall the local government submitted a budget to the Legislature with a shortfall of some $18 million for this fiscal year. Revenue fluctuation is an issue we must contend with in hopes it stops its downward trend. The answer is in a healthy economy!

I was at a loss how to approach the issue given the billions of dollars in investments funds that have exited without notice recently. We're talking about $14 billion big ones! Wary of this or "not yet, already"? Better yet, how do we recoup such huge loss? Imposing more taxes isn't the answer!

Investors: When investors come to the islands they bring two things upfront: wealth and jobs! Their investments bring new wealth (money) and jobs for our people. The money generated supports services in many areas here, from healthcare to education.

Private industry expansion is the only sure pathway to building upon prosperity. Like high tidal shift, it lifts all boats in the harbor. Not sure if this has happened or exited the prevailing malaise.

Government isn't in the business of profit making. What it spends are profits that came from the other side of the fence—taxes paid by private industries—and others. The funds are appropriated by the Legislature and spent per a set of purpose.

Negligence: Apparently, it doesn't matter the depth of hardship this would impose on people you represent. Thus, the seeming arrogant contentment in ignorance lest you'd be scrambling for solid answers!

The point I find woefully troubling is the obvious attitude of inconsequence on a deepening financial situation prompted by your ignorant arrogance.

It's about the economy. What's the beast about?

In its simplest form, it's money found in family pocketbooks. With it, families have the chance to meet basic needs that includes paying for the family home, car, food, and clothing, among others. Without it, it's sheer filial hardship!

The apparent negligence has placed 15,000 employees deeper in poverty income while the cost of basic goods skyrockets. With inaction how do you help people you represent attain higher quality of life? Isn't this your primary fiduciary duty you've opted to treat with *ke sera*? Sorry, didn't mean to ruffle your feathers!

Without any appreciable private industry expansion, we're basically dead in the water. It's back to *ke sera*, crossing fingers that nothing contracts any further. Appalling your grand complacency amidst the deepening hardship at home. Isn't this a glaring failure of fiduciary duty? Or did I aggravate your apparent disorientation further or "not yet, already?"

Setting sail: Time would be tight navigating between parsing behind the headlines for materials for discussion on this page and completing two books both of which would be written in the vernacular.

One focuses on several major issues I came across over the last 40 years, the other mundane stuff including local humor. It's a worthy final personal assignment.

Language professors across the Pacific are in agreement that written language cements culture. Scribbling a complete sentence in your mother tongue rewards confidence and cultural perpetuity. PSS should continue this form of instruction to our children. Must learn your mother tongue first before moving forward.

What does the US owe for what it gained from slavery?

By E.R. SHIPP
The Baltimore Sun

E.R. Shipp, the journalist in residence at Morgan State University's School of Global Journalism and Communication, is a columnist for the Baltimore Sun. Readers may email her at ershipp2017@gmail.com.

For some of us, reparations, a hot topic on the presidential campaign trail, is a new and uncomfortable issue. It raises this question: What does the U.S. owe for the years it benefited from the enslavement of people from Africa and then, through a variety of government-sanctioned practices, subjugated them to the lowest level of a veritable caste system?

Others of us sigh, roll our eyes and say, "Here we go again. How far will we get this time?"

In activist circles, in publications like The Atlantic, in the halls of both academe and Congress, the topic is as perennial as daffodils and cherry blossoms.

Starting in 1989, Rep. John Conyers Jr., a Michigan Democrat, annually introduced a bill known as H.R. 40 until his retirement in 2017. With Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee, a Texas Democrat, as its primary sponsor now, the bill calls for the creation of the Commission to Study and Develop Reparations Proposals for African Americans.

In re-introducing the bill earlier this year, Rep. Lee said, "The Commission aims to study the impact of slavery and continuing discrimination against African-Americans, resulting directly and indirectly from slavery to segregation to the desegregation process and the present day. The commission would also make recommendations concerning any form of apology and compensation to begin the long delayed process of atonement for slavery."

As one of my students asked last week: Why is there a need to study what seems so obvious?

We've ducked and dodged and danced around this issue of what the U.S. owes even as we've seen reparations approved for Jewish Holocaust survivors, for Japanese Americans and others interned in camps on U.S. soil during World War II and for victims of immoral medical practices like withholding syphilis treatment from black men. States, including Florida and North Carolina, and cities, including Chicago, have made atonement with money and apologies for everything from eugenics to police misconduct.

A deliberately-exploited misconception is that modern-day blacks want a Lotto-style cash payout for something that may have happened to their long-dead ancestors. Anyone intelligent enough to be reading my words right now is capable of knowing otherwise. Any number of sources explain that slavery did not end in practice in 1865, when the 13th Amendment outlawed its most obvious forms, and that white supremacy has shaped government policy ever since.

"The past is never dead. It's not even past," that Southern sage William Faulkner said.

First comes acknowledgement of the wrongs; then comes atonement in the form of education and compensation. And, yes, where there is a will, there is a way.

Textbooks that omit slavery—all 200-plus years of it in our American history—are a starting point. How can we sanction ignorance and still lay claim to having an informed citizenry? Of course, people concerned about public education don't need a reparations bill to demand changes from school boards and textbook publishers, but the power of the federal government's imprimatur cannot be underestimated.

Changing official narratives in public historic spaces, from the U.S. Capitol to federal, state and local monuments, is another area. While slowly underway, it's hit or miss, depending upon who happens to have the will and the opportunity to effect change.

At Fort Monroe in Hampton, Va., for instance, Terry E. Brown, the superintendent of this national monument, has taken it upon himself to reshape the traditional military story told there. Now visitors learn that the first Africans in the English-speaking colonies that became the U.S. arrived in that area in 1619 when it was known as Port Comfort and that enslaved blacks built the fort.

They also learn that more than 10,000 runaway slaves took refuge there during the Civil War and helped influence President Lincoln's decision to issue the Emancipation Proclamation in 1863. That's edifying us about a complicated past, rather than erasing it the way some locals have done in removing monuments to Confederate traitors, leaving behind empty spaces rather than explanations.

Support from presidential candidates and thought leaders redirect the spotlight onto the matter of reparations. But this must not become yet another vacuous politically expedient promise along the campaign trail. Nor must it become a partisan checkbook issue that begins and ends with the question: How much will this cost?

It is not outer space but slavery that is America's final frontier. If we can muster the will and the audacity to assume we can conquer the former, we can certainly do so to rectify the latter.

SCENES

From Page 14

fire delivered no such clues of massive conspiracy.

It may take some time to establish with certainty the exact cause of the Notre Dame Cathedral fire. In the meantime, there are ample reasons to deplore and mourn as a civilized society the heavy damage to this magnificent global treasure. It may not rank with the pyramids of ancient Egypt or the ruins of Pompeii, but it can be restored, as French President Emanuel Macron has already pledged.

That said, there is only a limited list of physical structures regarded as universal symbols of the greatness of the civilized society across the globe. The destruction of any of them is a loss not only to the country in which they are located and cherished, but wherever beauty and majesty are esteemed for their own sake.

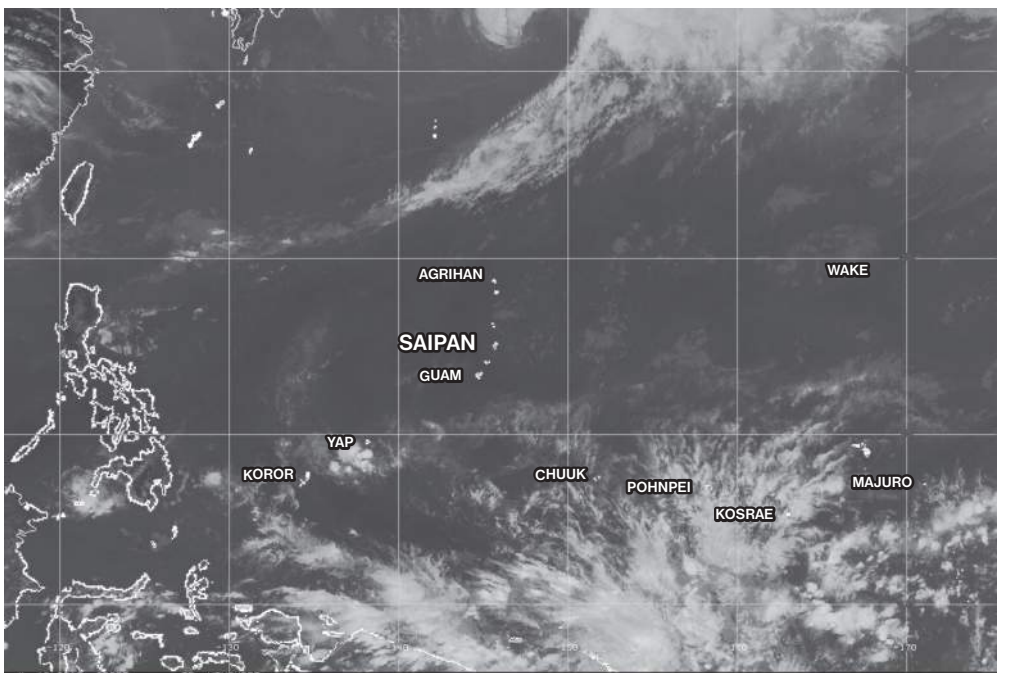
When the Twin Towers disappeared from the Manhattan skyline, private enterprise swiftly rebuilt in their place the new Freedom Tower, a tribute as much to American resilience as to the memory of the victims of 9/11. The restoration of the Notre Dame Cathedral will also be a recognition of its place in the heart and pride of France, and that of the wide civilized world itself.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Partly cloudy with a slight chance of light showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of light showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated light showers.
89° 78°	89° 78°	88° 78°	89° 78°	89° 78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 5:31 AM, THURSDAY, APRIL 18, 2019

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Gentle to moderate trade winds will persist the next several days. Combined seas of 4 to 6 feet will subside to between 3 and 5 feet by Friday.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Showers	87° / 77°
Palau	Thunderstorms	85° / 77°
Yap	Partly Cloudy	88° / 79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	84° / 80°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	66° / 57°
Beijing	Rain	63° / 46°
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	82° / 79°
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	85° / 72°
London	Partly Cloudy	73° / 46°
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	81° / 58°
Manila	Mostly Cloudy	99° / 81°
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	84° / 64°
Miami	Thunderstorms	84° / 67°
New York	Rain	68° / 61°
Osaka	Sunny	70° / 50°
Paris	Mostly Sunny	79° / 52°
Busan	Mostly Sunny	64° / 52°
Rome	Sunny	72° / 48°
Salem	Thunderstorms	65° / 45°
San Francisco	Sunny	67° / 50°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	68° / 50°
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	64° / 52°
Washington, DC	Thunderstorms	77° / 63°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
1:25 AM	LOW TIDE	0.28
7:22 AM	HIGH TIDE	2.08
1:57 PM	LOW TIDE	0.09
8:02 PM	HIGH TIDE	2.02

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:00 AM	6:31 PM
Saturday	6:00 AM	6:32 PM
Sunday	5:59 AM	6:32 PM
Monday	5:58 AM	6:32 PM
Tuesday	5:58 AM	6:32 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	5:47 AM	6:24 PM
Saturday	-	6:32 AM	7:22 PM
Sunday	-	7:19 AM	8:19 PM
Monday	-	8:07 AM	9:16 PM
Tuesday	-	8:56 AM	10:12 PM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 1, 2019

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:15am	9:56am	Daily
UA105	6:25pm	7:05pm	2, 4

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 3, 5, 7
7C3451	3:30am	6:30am	4

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	1:35am	5:20am	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:35am	8:25am	Daily
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:50am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:30am	11:00am	1
JD396	4:50pm	7:55pm	4

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:30am	7:55am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	9:15am	8:50pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA117/183	9:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA117/1939:15am		10:40pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	1:50am	5:15am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:40am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:35am	8:25am	1
UO43	5:50am	8:40am	3, 5, 7
UA117/159	9:15am	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	7:30am	8:12am	Daily
UA104	4:50pm	5:31pm	2, 4

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	2, 4, 6, 7
7C3452	9:35pm	2:30am+1	3

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
TW307	7:00pm	12:35am+1	2, 3, 5, 6
TW307	7:05pm	12:35am+1	1
OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:50am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:05am	3:30pm	4
JD395	9:35pm	5:00am+1	7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:55pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	3:55pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA192/174	9:45pm	8:12am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA184/174	10:25pm	8:12am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/174	11:30pm	8:12am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:15pm	00:15am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:25pm	1:20am+1	7
UO42	9:25pm	4:20am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/174	10:45pm	8:12am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

5 GCA students join Team CNMI for NSDA competition

Grace Christian Academy students won top awards at the weeklong National Speech and Debate Association regional competition, with most of them included the CNMI team that will compete at the national level in Texas.

The five GCA students—Jonathan Woong So Lee, Joshua Pajarillaga, Lanz Jabez Victoria, James Keaton, and Sumin Melody Woo—would be part of a team of 15 students from the CNMI who will compete in Dallas on June 16-21.

Lee, a 10th grader, has a lot of "firsts" in joining NSDA this school year. This is going to be Lee's first time to compete at the nationals. In fact, this was Lee's first time to compete in the NSDA.

The other four GCA students who will be joining Lee at the nationals have been part of CNMI teams in previous school years and have already experienced competing in the United States.

At the recent regional competition, Lee won first place in Dramatic Interpretation and first place in Original Oratory, which he will represent at the nationals.

"I am so grateful for all the support and help I received from my fellow peers, competitors, and coaches. I am so excited to compete in the [United] States [mainland]. I am so thankful for this opportunity," he said.

Grace Christian Academy's National Speech and Debate Association regional competition winners pose for a souvenir photo after the announcing of winners at Marianas High School.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Pajarillaga, a 10th grader at GCA, won first place in International Extemporaneous Speech and will represent Team CNMI in the same event at the nationals.

"I am super excited to compete at the national level once again. This year's [regional] competition was especially tough but…this will be another opportunity to improve and learn more [and] a chance to show off how far our islands have come in speech and debate," he said.

Victoria, who is in 11th grade at GCA, won first place in Commentary and will represent the CNMI in the same event.

"I never expected to be able to win first place, considering all the good performers in my categories," he said.

James Alexander Keaton, who is in 9th grade, won 5th place in Impromptu Speech, which will be his main event at the nationals.

"I am extremely happy. … This is my second time competing [at] the national level. My first experience was when I was in 7th grade. I will do my best to represent the CNMI team at the national level," he said.

Woo has been a veteran competitor at the national level, representing the CNMI in different competitions such as speech and thespian. Being a senior, this is her last year to compete in high school-level competitions. This year, she won first place in Prose Reading and will represent the CNMI in this category.

"I have been participating in speech and debate since elementary, and being a part of the nationals team again is the best way to end my NSDA participation this senior year. I am avid to start practice for Dallas," she said.

GCA principal Beth Ann Nunez said: "We are very proud of our five GCA students."

The NSDA encourages public and private high school students to participate in and become proficient in reading, public speaking, debate, and interpretations.

National Speech & Debate Association
(9TH-12TH Grade)

Dramatic Interpretation
- Jonathan Woong Soo Lee, 1st Place
- Sumin Melody Woo, 2nd Place

Original Oratory
- Jonathan Woong Soo Lee, 1st Place

Commentary
- Lanz Jabez Victoria, 1st Place
- Arvin Dayao, 3rd Place
- James Alexander Keaton, 5th Place

International Extemporaneous Speech
- Elijah Joshua Pajarillaga, 1st Place
- Lanz Jabez Victoria, 2nd Place

United States Extemporaneous Speech
- James Alexander Keaton, 4th Place
- Arvin Dayao, 5th Place

Impromptu Speech
- Elijah Joshua Pajarillaga, 2nd Place
- James Alexander Keaton, 5th Place

Prose Reading Masters A
- Sumin Melody Woo, 1st Place

Poetry Reading Masters A
- Jonathan Woong Soo Lee, 3rd Place
- Sumin Melody Woo, 4th Place

NSDA coach/coordinator: Grace Duran

Competition registrar: Esther Manzano

Judges: Marilyn Aldan, Sandy Howard, Elizabeth Ellis ***(PR)***

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

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CUC-IFB-19-019

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The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified vendors for the Supply and Delivery of Chlorine Gas for Saipan, Tinian & Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The IFB package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of **$100.00** for one IFB package set.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies of the bid must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC-IFB-19-019, Supply & Delivery of Chlorine Gas"* to CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Dandan, Saipan MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on May 17, 2019**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract. Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. All responses to this Invitation for Bids should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the bidder, awarded a contract.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on May 1, 2019** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email address-manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Yvonne Cabrera, CUC Water Division, Jr. Engineer via email address-yvonne.cabrera@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, Procurement & Supply, Administrative Support Assistant via email address – christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in said bid proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW19-IFB-012

LALANGHITA ROAD AND DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Governor Ralph Dlg. Torres and Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for **Lalanghita Road and Drainage Improvement Project**, Saipan Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after **April 12, 2019** at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of **One Hundred Dollars ($100.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Teasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division.

All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations currently in effect."

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITUES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **April 30, 2019**, 9:00 a.m. local time at the Department of Public Works Conference Room 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center Office, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **May 8, 2019** to **Ms. Lorraine Seman, Acting Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

Prospective bidders should examine and review the invitation for bids with care. If it should appear to a prospective bidder that the performance of the work under the contract or any of the matters relative thereto is not sufficiently described or explained in the invitation for bids, or that any discrepancy exists between different parts of the invitation for bids, or that full intent of the invitation for bids is not clear, then the prospective bidder shall submit a written request for clarification no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening at 4:30 pm to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

The prospective bidder shall examine carefully the site of the proposed work and the invitation for bids before submitting a bid.

The Contracting Officer (CO) may, upon recommendation of the Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR), issue an addendum notifying all prospective bidders known to have received an invitation for bids, or if issued after the deadline for submission of the notice of intention to bid, to those persons who submitted such notice, of any changes to the invitation for bids. The Department of Public Works will make every reasonable attempt to notify all persons who obtained the invitation for bids from the Technical Services Division by telephone to pick up the addendum or if the CO chooses, the addendum may be mailed or delivered personally or by facsimile machine. If the bid proposal requires the acknowledgment of addenda, the prospective bidder shall indicate the date of each addendum in the space provided. **It shall be the prospective bidder's responsibility to confirm the existence of any addendum by telephoning the COTR at (670) 234-9828/9838 no later than ten (10) Calendar days before the scheduled bid opening**.

Sealed bids must be marked **"DPW19-IFB-012"**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, no later than **10:00 a.m. local time May 13, 2019**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **10:00 a.m. local time, May 13, 2019**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to **procurement@cnmidof.net**. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **May 13, 2019** and the BID documents must be received at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **May 22, 2019**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, at **10:00 a.m. local time, May 27, 2019**. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at **10:00 a.m. local time, on May 13, 2019**.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars **($25,000.00)** a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. **Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashiers check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Surety requiring approval of the Attorney General must be pre-approved prior to bid submission**. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations **§70-30.3-245**. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00. Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
b) A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceed the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

Acceptable assets are only:

1) Cash
2) US Gov't Securities
3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is **One Hundred Eighty (180) calendar days** upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages for delays beyond the established completion date will be assessed at the rate of **One Hundred (US$100.00)** for each and every day the work is delayed beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

JAMES A. ADA
Acting Secretary of Public Works

JACK REYES
Acting Director of Procurement & Supply

MVA takes Marianas on the road in Japan

The Marianas Visitors Authority held its annual Marianas three-city roadshow in Japan on March 4-6, 2019, providing details of the Marianas a tourist destination to travel agents and media.

Over 200 major Japanese travel agents attended the seminars held on March 4-6, 2019, in Osaka, Nagoya, and Tokyo.

The seminar series is designed to provide Japanese travel agents with the latest information on this beach resort destination, arming them to better sell the destination and develop new tour packages.

"Of course, the focus of this year's roadshow was Skymark Airlines' commencement of direct service between Tokyo and Saipan, information that was well received by the travel industry," said MVA marketing manager Thomas Kim. "We also emphasized the importance of the Japanese visitors to the Marianas and provided updates on the recent 'Resident Instagrammer' program we have undertaken."

The seminar and the workshop was also supported by destination stakeholders engaged in Mariana's tourism, including Asiana Airlines, United Airlines, Aqua Resort Club Saipan, Kanoa Resort Saipan, Grandvrio Resort Saipan, Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Kensington Hotel Saipan, Pacific Islands Club Saipan, Laolao Bay Golf & Resort, Rota Resort & Country Club, PDI, T Galleria Saipan by DFS, Mariana Ocean/Mariana Grand Service, and Kan Pacific. In addition to a general overview by the MVA, presentations were made by tourism partners. ***(MVA)***

The Marianas Visitors Authority and partners promote the Marianas at the Marianas Roadshow on March 6, 2019, in Tokyo, Japan. Front from left, MVA Japan PR manager Yuka Sawada, Aqua Resort Club Saipan Japan sales manager Noriko N. JIM, Pacific Islands Club Saipan Japan market sales manager Noriko Watanabe, PDI assistant general manager Hiroko Tajima, Mariana Ocean/Mariana Grand Service's Hiroko K. Tenorio, Mariana Ocean/Mariana Grand Service's Junko Saikaishi, MVA Japan sales manager Kyoko Okabe, MVA Japan PR Keiko Hino, and MVA Japan assistant sales manager Masanori Shimada. Back from left, Kensington Hotel Saipan director of Sales & Marketing Ted Jung, Grandvrio Resort Saipan Tokyo sales manager Hiroyuki Sasaki, Grandvrio Resort Saipan general manager Kunito Izumi, Hyatt Regency Saipan general manager Nick Nishikawa, then-MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion, MVA country manager Takashi Ichikura, MVA marketing manager Thomas Kim, Mariana Ocean Japan/Obot Al Sales & Marketing's Yoshinori Oura, and Mariana Ocean Japan/Obot Al Sales & Marketing Kyohei Honda.

MVA

One hundred-twenty travel trade representatives and media attend the Marianas Roadshow on March 6, 2019, in Tokyo, Japan. The roadshow was organized by the Marianas Visitors Authority to promote the destination.

MVA

'Sweet Blue' chooses Saipan as year's featured dive site

"Sweet Blue" of Japan's CS-TV has selected the Marianas as their one diving destination to feature in 2019.

The daily program reaches about 730,000 people and will air six 30-minute episodes about Saipan in June, to be followed by two reruns of the episodes for a combined ad exposure value of $2.1 million for the tropical destination.

"The advantages of diving in the Marianas are numerous, including visibility, warm waters year-round, and a wide diversity of dives," said Marianas Visitors Authority acting managing director Judy Torres. "As the MVA works with international media to attract visitors interested in enjoying diving and other water sports, it's imperative to ensure that our waters and natural resources remain pristine. This is the dream visitors wants to experience when they come."

Featured dive sites include the Grotto cavern, Laulau Beach, Obyan Beach, Oleai Beach, Managaha, Tinian Fleming, Tinian Grotto and others. Filming was also conducted at Mt. Tapochao, Old Man By the Sea, Forbidden Island lookout, Café 670, Garapan Night Market, Oleai Beach Bar & Grill, Kensington Hotel Saipan, and other sites.

The program will feature models Hanako Hirose and Natsuki Morita at various diving spots in the Marianas.

At the International Free Diving Competition "Vertical Blue 2017" that was held in the Bahamas, Hirose grabbed the Women's World Record in Constant Weight with a 103m dive as the first Asian woman. She is also the first Japanese PADI master free-diver instructor. ***(PR)***

MVA

"Sweet Blue" of Japan's CS-TV films at the Obyan Beach on March 27, 2019, for their annual diving destination feature program. The media familiarization tour was supported by the Marianas Visitors Authority.

MVA

"Sweet Blue" of Japan's CS-TV films at Kensington Hotel Saipan on March 28, 2019, for their annual diving destination feature program.

SHRM meeting to highlight employment law updates

The May meeting of the Society for Human Resource Management-NMI Chapter will feature two labor experts who will provide updates on laws governing employment in the region.

Keith Sonderling, acting administrator and deputy administrator of the U.S. Department of Labor's Wage and Hour Division, will be discussing the agency's Proposed 541 Salary Rule Change, the Payroll Audit Independent Determination, or "PAID," program, and related topics.

Vince Camacho, SHRM Guam's vice president of legislative affairs and managing principal of the Camacho Calvo Law Group, will provide updates on employment laws and regulations, including the American Worker Initiative, issues before the U.S. Supreme Court, free speech in the workplace, and impact of marijuana legislation in the workplace.

The SHRM-NMI Chapter membership meeting will be on May 9, 2019, a Thursday, at the Hyatt Regency Saipan's ballroom. Registration starts at 10:30am and meeting will begin promptly at 11am and end at 2:30pm. This will include an hour break for lunch and networking.

This is open to the public and includes morning refreshments and a Hyatt lunch buffet at the cost of $35 for SHRM/CNMI Bar Association members and $45 for non-members.

Seating is limited and you are strongly encouraged to reserve a seat by contacting Penny Jones at Penelope.jones@hyatt.com or Denise Montenegro at denise.montenegro@hyatt.com or by telephone at 323-5867/68.

The SHRM is the world's largest association devoted to human resource management. The NMI Chapter is affiliated with the national organization.

For more information about the NMI Chapter, visit http://nmichapter.shrm.org or like it on Facebook at SHRM NMI. ***(PR)***

Business

Trump cracks down on Cuba, Nicaragua and Venezuela

CORAL GABLES, Fla. (AP)—The Trump administration on Wednesday intensified its crackdown on Cuba, Nicaragua and Venezuela, rolling back Obama administration policy and announcing new restrictions and sanctions against the three countries whose leaders national security adviser John Bolton dubbed the "three stooges of socialism."

"The troika of tyranny—Cuba, Venezuela and Nicaragua—is beginning to crumble," Bolton said in a hard-hitting speech near Miami on the 58th anniversary of the United States' failed Bay of Pigs invasion of the island, an attempt to overthrow the Cuban government.

The measures seem likely to hit hardest in Cuba, which is at a moment of severe economic weakness as it struggles to find cash to import basic food and other supplies following a drop in aid from Venezuela and a string of bad years in other key economic sectors.

Bolton announced a new cap on the amount of money that families in the United States can send their relatives in Cuba. The Obama administration had lifted limits on remittances, but the new limit will be $1,000 per person per quarter. Remittances to Cuba from the United States amounted to $3 billion in 2016, according to the State Department.

Washington also moved to restrict "non-family travel" after a broad loosening of so-called purposeful visits under Obama led to soaring numbers of American trips for cultural and educational exchanges. Details on the restrictions were not immediately clear, but tourism is a key lifeline of hard currency for Cuba. Bolton called such visits "veiled tourism."

Bolton spoke hours after Secretary of State Mike Pompeo announced a new policy allowing lawsuits against foreign firms operating on properties Cuba seized from Americans after the 1959 revolution. The United States has enforced a trade embargo against Cuba since the early 1960s.

Cuban officials met the announcements with defiance.

"Nobody will snatch away from us, neither through seduction nor force, 'the Fatherland that our parents won for us by standing up,'" President Miguel Díaz-Canel said via Twitter. "We Cubans will not surrender."

Foreign Minister Bruno Rodríguez called it an attack on international law, Cuban sovereignty and countries that would do business with the island: "Aggressive escalation by (hashtag)US against Cuba will fail. Like at Giron, we will be victorious," he tweeted, referring to a Bay of Pigs beach where invaders landed.

"We will always be willing to have a dialogue based on absolute respect, but if the U.S. government has chosen a confrontational path we will not hesitate to defend the gains of the revolution at any cost," Rodríguez later said on state television.

On Venezuela, Bolton said Washington was sanctioning the country's Central Bank, which the Trump administration says has been instrumental in propping up the embattled government of President Nicolás Maduro. The sanctions do not bar humanitarian aid or private remittances and aim to ensure reliability of debit and credit card transactions, which have become essential amid skyrocketing inflation and a shortage of cash notes.

Maduro called the move the latest example of "imperialist aggression." In a nationally broadcast TV appearance, he said any nation's central bank is "sacred" and deserves respect.

"I see imperialism as crazy, desperate," Maduro said.

Bolton also announced sanctions against financial services provider Bancorp, which he claimed is a "slush fund" for Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega.

United Airlines trims growth plan for 2019

DALLAS (AP)—The grounding of its Boeing 737 Max jets is causing United Airlines to trim growth plans for this year, and the carrier expects to discuss potential compensation with Boeing.

United claims to be managing the grounding relatively well by pressing spare jets into duty and delaying discretionary maintenance work on other planes.

That approach, however, comes with extra costs—sometimes the airline uses bigger and less fuel-efficient two-aisle jets to replace the missing single-aisle Max on domestic routes.

United has 14 Max planes in its fleet, and airline executives said Wednesday they don't expect those jets back before July. They said some of the 16 additional Max jets they expected to get this year might be delayed.

"Obviously there are some costs that we have been incurring and continue to incur," Chief Financial Officer Gerry Laderman said on a call with analysts and reporters. "We'll have a conversation with Boeing and I expect, like we always do, to resolve whatever that conversation is in a way that works for both of us."

United declined to give a figure for its extra costs.

The Boeing jetliner has been grounded around the world since mid-March after two crashes killed 346 people. Investigators are focusing on anti-stall software that pushed the planes' noses down based on erroneous sensor readings.

Boeing is working on a software update and training program for pilots that will highlight differences between the Max and previous versions of the 737, the best-selling airliner in history.

The company reported Wednesday that its first quarter profit doubled to $292 million on more passenger traffic and strong cost controls. Shares climbed $4.07, or 4.8 percent, to close at $89.24.

United said it expects to cancel 130 flights in April because of the parked Boeing planes.

That is far less than Southwest Airlines, which has 34 Max planes, and American Airlines, which has 24. Those two airlines say they are scrapping about 90 flights a day.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
PROJECT NO.: CPA-RFP-007-19

BID SUBMISSION DEADLINE: APRIL 26, 2019 TIME: 4:00 P.M.

AIRLINE STAIRS MAINTENANCE SERVICE AND REPAIRS
SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is requesting proposals from qualified and experienced companies, corporations, and/or firms to provide the CPA with Airline Stairs maintenance service and repairs. The Executive Director determines that the use of an Invitation for Bid is neither practical nor advantageous to the CPA because the CPA wishes to acquire services and or products that cannot be evaluate by cost alone (NMIAC § 40-50-225(a)).

All works shall take place at the Saipan International Airport, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Proposal Package is available for pick-up beginning April 5, 2019, at the Executive Director's Office, Commonwealth Ports Authority, 2nd Floor, Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport. The proposer shall guarantee that all contents of their proposal shall be valid for a period of 60 calendar days from the due date of proposals.

A mandatory pre-proposal meeting will take place on April 17, 2019, at 10:00 AM at the CPA conference room, 2nd Floor, Departure Terminal Building for questions and/or clarifications on this project. Proposals will only be accepted from those proposers who attended this meeting.

Proposers are to submit one (1) original and two (2) copies of their proposals to the Office of the Executive Director no later than 4:00 PM, April 26, 2019.

This RFP is issued pursuant to Chapter 40-40 of the Northern Mariana Islands Administrative Code (the "NMIAC"). Title 40, including chapter 40-50-225, Request for Proposals, is applicable to the process followed by the RFP.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding proposal rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects of said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

All proposals shall become the property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
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P.O. BOX 501055, SAIPAN MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 • Fax (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS
FOR
CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES

TINIAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
PERIMETER SECURITY FENCE REPLACEMENT
PROJECT NO. CPA-TA-001-19

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested Consultants for Construction Management Services for the Perimeter Security Fence Replacement at the Tinian International Airport, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands.

The project is being funded by the Federal Aviation Administration's Airport Improvement Program. This project is in accordance with CPA's Procurement Rules and Regulations and procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 40-50-202 Architect-Engineer Design and Construction Management Services.

The Request for Qualification (RFQ) Package is available at CPA's Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal. No fee is required for obtaining the proposal package. The statements of professional qualification will be evaluated based on the criteria available in the RFQ package.

Questions regarding this request for RFQ statements must be submitted to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, CPA Executive Assistant/Project Manager, at (670) 237-6500 and/or emailed to cpa.engr@pticom.com and wprater@cpa.gov.mp by no later than *Friday, April 26, 2019, 5:00 p.m.*, local time.

Interested Consultants are requested to submit one (1) original, four (4) copies and one (1) electronic version in .pdf of their statements of professional qualifications no later than **5:00 p.m., FRIDAY, MAY 10, 2019**. Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

Send information to:
Mr. Christopher S. Tenorio
Executive Director
Commonwealth Ports Authority
P.O. Box 501055
Saipan, MP 96950-1055

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date: April 12, 2019

Nation

Florida teenager obsessed with Columbine takes her own life

LITTLETON, Colo. (AP)—A Florida teenager who authorities say was obsessed with the Columbine school shooting and may have been planning an attack in Colorado just ahead of the 20th anniversary was found dead Wednesday in an apparent suicide after a nearly 24-hour manhunt.

The body of 18-year-old high schooler Sol Pais was discovered in the mountains outside Denver with what appeared to be a self-inflicted gunshot wound after investigators got a tip from the driver who took her there, the FBI said.

During the manhunt, Denver-area schools closed as a precaution, with classes and extracurricular activities canceled for a half-million students.

Police and the FBI were tipped off about Pais after the Miami Beach high school student made troubling remarks to others about her "infatuation" with the 1999 bloodbath at Columbine High and this weekend's anniversary of the 13 killings, said Dean Phillips, FBI agent in charge in Denver. He did not elaborate on what she said.

Pais purchased three one-way tickets to Denver on three consecutive days, then flew in on Monday night and went directly to a gun store, where she bought a shotgun, authorities said.

"We're used to threats, frankly, at Columbine," John McDonald, security chief for Jefferson County school system, said when the manhunt was over. "This one felt different. It was different. It certainly had our attention."

McDonald described her trip as a "pilgrimage" to Columbine.

Colorado Gov. Jared Polis said after receiving word that the hunt was over that he and all Colorado parents are "hugging their children a little tighter."

In Pais' hometown, Surfside Police Chief Julio Yero asked that the family be given "privacy and a little time to grieve." Pais' parents had reported her missing on Monday night, police said.

"This family contributed greatly to this investigation from the very onset. They provided valuable information that led us to Colorado and a lot of things that assisted in preventing maybe more loss of life," Yero said.

Authorities said she did not threaten a specific school. But Columbine and more than 20 other schools outside Denver reacted by locking their doors for nearly three hours Tuesday afternoon, and some canceled evening activities or moved them inside.

Pais' body was found off a trail not far from the base of Mount Evans, a recreation area about 60 miles southwest of Denver, authorities said. She used the weapon she bought, Phillips said. She had been last seen in a black T-shirt, camouflage pants and black boots.

Sheriff Jeff Shrader said the sale of the shotgun apparently followed the state's legal process. Out-of-state residents who are at least 18 can buy shotguns in Colorado. Customers must provide fingerprints and pass a criminal background check.

A gun shop that said it sold the shotgun to Pais posted on Facebook that she passed the background check and the purchase was legal.

"We had no reason to suspect she was a threat to either herself or anyone else," said the post, which was signed by Colorado Gun Broker owner Josh Rayburn.

School officials said events planned to mark the anniversary will go on as scheduled, including a ceremony at Columbine on Saturday.

AP

Members of an Alpine Rescue Team carry out the body of 18-year-old Sol Pais, near Echo Lake Campground in Arapaho National Forest, Wednesday, April 17, 2019, in Idaho Springs, Colo.

Arming teachers brings contentious debate in Florida Senate

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP)—Democrats failed to strip language out of a Florida Senate school safety bill that would expand a law allowing some teachers to carry guns in school. They argued Wednesday that more guns in school could make them more dangerous.

Senators spent nearly two hours debating proposed amendments to a wide-ranging bill that would revise a law passed last year after 17 people were killed at a Parkland High School. The bill seeks to act on several recommendations of a commission formed to study the shootings at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, the most contentious of which could allow more teachers to be armed.

A law enacted last year allows some classroom teachers to volunteer to carry weapons after they undergo training and psychological evaluations in districts that adopt the "guardian program." But those teachers also have to have a role outside the classroom, such as an athletic coach. The bill being considered would allow any teacher to participate, and that frightens Democrats.

Democratic Sen. Oscar Braynon said there were 34 confrontations between students and teachers last year in Miami-Dade County, where he lives.

"Do we think it benefits those confrontations if we insert a firearm?" Braynon asked. "That happened 34 times. How many school shootings have we had in the past 200 years? One."

Braynon suggested that if teachers shoot students and claim self-defense, they'd likely be acquitted by juries. It was a reference to Florida's "stand your ground" law that allows the use of deadly force if someone feels threatened.

"I don't want us to even be in that position. I don't want that teacher to be in that position. I don't want the students to feel like there's a possibility that they can be in that position, because it changes the whole mindset of what that child feels when they walk into that school," Braynon said. "In my district, there are children that are living with gun violence every day outside of school. The school is a safe space for them. The teacher is a safe space for them. Let's not inject this into that safe space."

Republican Sen. Manny Diaz, who is ushering the bill through the Senate, said districts don't have to arm teachers, but noted in some rural areas, the nearest law enforcement officer may be 20 minutes away if there is a school shooting. Other Republicans also argued that no teacher or district would be forced to arm teachers. So far, 25 of Florida's 67 school districts have approved participation in the guardian program.

"We're not telling the school district to do it. We are letting that school district understand their community, their teachers," said Republican Sen. Gayle Harrell. "We are not imposing this on anyone. We are saying this is an option—a tool in the tool box that may meet your needs. This is really a way that we can protect our children."

Democrats said they support other aspects of the bill, which includes provisions requiring schools to report violent incidents, an increased focus on properly assessing and responding to potentially threatening behavior and requiring schools to promote suspicious activity reporting tools.

The Senate is schedule to vote on the bill Tuesday. A similar bill is being considered by the House.

ACROSS THE NATION

2 get prison for immigrant smuggling that led to 2 deaths

LAREDO, Texas (AP)—Two Guatemalan men have been sentenced to federal prison for their parts in an immigrant-smuggling run that led to the deaths of two Ecuadoran men. A Justice Department statement says 23-year-old Melvin L. Barahona-Godoy was sentenced to four years and nine months in prison Wednesday in Laredo, while 29-year-old Yoryi Alexis Perez drew a 6½-year prison term. Both had pleaded guilty to conspiracy to illegally transport immigrants resulting in death. Both will be subject to deportation after completing their prison terms. Federal officials at a Laredo residence on Oct. 21, 2017, found nine immigrants who were in the country illegally, one of whom was Barahona-Godoy. They say interviews established that Barahona-Godoy and Perez had guided the group across the Rio Grande the previous month. Two people drowned during the crossing.

1 killed, several hurt in church bus crash on Texas highway

WARREN, Texas (AP)—A church bus has crashed on a Texas highway, killing one person and injuring several others. The crash happened about 5:30 p.m. Wednesday just outside the town of Warren, Texas, about 80 miles (130 kilometers) northeast of Houston. The Texas Department of Public Safety says in a statement that a car pulled out from a driveway in front of the First Baptist Church of Warren bus, causing the bus driver to swerve and lose control. The bus veered off the road and struck a tree. The Department of Public Safety says the person who died was an adult passenger. It says the driver, another adult passenger and six children were taken to hospitals. The department says the adults suffered serious injuries, but the children did not.

Strong storms rumble across Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas

DALLAS (AP)—Severe thunderstorms rumbled across North Texas, the Texas Panhandle, Oklahoma and southeastern Kansas, producing several tornadoes and unleashing widespread hail. Seven tornadoes were reported across the Plains from the northeastern Texas Panhandle to southeastern Kansas. Strong winds hit elsewhere Wednesday evening, toppling utility poles and trees and downing power lines in parts of North Texas. No significant structural damage has been reported. The National Weather Service received numerous reports of hail pelting the storm-struck areas. Egg-size hail was reported about 60 miles (95 kilometers) northwest of Fort Worth. The storms were expected to move Thursday into the Deep South, days after dozens of tornadoes from East Texas to Georgia left at least eight dead.

Asia

North Korea says it test-fired new tactical guided weapon

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea said Thursday that it had test-fired a new type of "tactical guided weapon," its first such test in nearly half a year, and a possible sign of its displeasure with deadlocked nuclear talks with the United States.

The test, which didn't appear to be of a banned mid- or long-range ballistic missile that could scuttle negotiations, allows Pyongyang to show its people it is pushing ahead with weapons development while also reassuring domestic military officials worried that diplomacy with Washington signals weakness.

The North's leader, Kim Jong Un, observed the unspecified weapon being fired Wednesday by the Academy of Defense Science, the North's state-run Korean Central News Agency said. Kim was reported to have said "the development of the weapon system serves as an event of very weighty significance in increasing the combat power of the People's Army."

The Associated Press could not independently verify North Korea's claim, and it wasn't immediately clear what had been tested. A ballistic missile test would jeopardize the diplomatic talks meant to provide the North with concessions in return for disarmament. A South Korean analyst said that details in the North's media report indicate it could have been a new type of cruise missile.

People watch a TV news program reporting about North Korea's test-fire of a "new-type tactical guided weapon," with a file footage of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, at the Seoul Railway Station in Seoul, South Korea, Thursday, April 18, 2019. AP

Another possible clue: one of the lower level officials mentioned in the North's report on the test—Pak Jong Chon—is known as an artillery official.

The test comes during an apparent deadlock in nuclear disarmament talks after the failed summit in Hanoi between Kim and President Donald Trump earlier this year. Some in Seoul worry that the North will turn back to actions seen as provocative by outsiders as a way to force Washington to drop its hardline negotiating stance and grant the North's demand for a removal of crushing international sanctions. A string of increasingly powerful weapons tests in 2017 and Trump's response of "fire and fury" had many fearing war before the North shifted to diplomacy.

The test came amid media reports in South Korean and Japan that Kim plans to visit Vladivostok next week for a summit with Russian President Vladimir Putin. Japan's Fuji Television Network on Wednesday showed Kim's de facto chief of staff, Kim Chang Son, visiting an area near Vladivostok's train station. Ahead of Kim Jong Un's two summits with Trump, Kim Chang Son visited Singapore and Vietnam in advance and handled logistical preparations.

Trump said last month that he "would be very disappointed if I saw testing."

As the diplomacy stalls, there have been fresh reports of new activity at a North Korean missile research center and long-range rocket site where Pyongyang is believed to build missiles targeting the U.S. mainland. North Korean media said Wednesday that Kim guided a flight drill of combat pilots from an air force and anti-aircraft unit tasked with defending the capital Pyongyang from an attack.

During a speech at his rubber-stamp parliament last week, Kim set the year's end as a deadline for Washington to offer mutually acceptable terms for an agreement to salvage diplomacy.

Kim Dong-yub, an analyst from Seoul's Institute for Far Eastern Studies, said North Korea's descriptions of the test show the weapon is possibly a newly developed cruise missile. The North's report said the "tactical guided weapon" successfully tested in a "peculiar mode of guiding flight" and demonstrated the ability to deliver a "powerful warhead."

The analyst said the test could also be intended as a message to the North Korean people and military of a commitment to maintaining a strong level of defense even as it continues talks with Washington over nukes.

Melissa Hanham, a nonproliferation expert and director of the Datayo Project at the One Earth Future Foundation, said the North Korean weapon could be anything from an antitank weapon to a cruise missile.

The North said Thursday that Kim Jong Un mounted an observation post to learn about and guide the test-fire of the weapon.

This is the first known time Kim has observed the testing of a newly developed weapon system since last November, when North Korean media said he watched the successful test of an unspecified "newly developed ultramodern tactical weapon." Some observers have been expecting North Korea to orchestrate "low-level provocations," like artillery or short-range missile tests, to register its anger over the way nuclear negotiations were going.

ASIA BRIEFS

Emperor performs ritual to report abdication to Shinto gods

TOKYO (AP)—Emperor Akihito is praying at a Japanese shrine in a ritual to report his upcoming abdication to the Shinto gods. The 85-year-old emperor will retire on April 30 in the first abdication in 200 years and a rarity in Japan's ancient imperial history. Crown Prince Naruhito will succeed to the Chrysanthemum throne May 1. Akihito performed the "Shinetsu no Gi" ritual at Ise Shrine in western Japan on Thursday as part of the succession process. Television footage showed Akihito in a tuxedo heading into the shrine, with palace officials holding up two imperial treasures — sword and jewel. The third, a mirror, is kept at the shrine. His daughter and head shrine priest, Sayako Kuroda, also attended. The regalia, or three treasures, will be handed to Naruhito after his succession.

Jailed ex-SKorean president requests temporarily release

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—Imprisoned former South Korean President Park Geunhye on Wednesday requested a temporarily release so she can be treated for health problems her lawyer says are causing "burning" and "cutting" pain. An official from the Seoul Central District Prosecutors' Office said it will soon review Park's request. He spoke on condition of anonymity, citing office rules against speaking to the media. South Korean criminal law allows prisoners with serious health problems to be treated at hospitals under the eye of prosecutors before returning to prison after recovery. Yoo Young-ha, Park's lawyer, said she has been dealing with disc problems and spinal stenosis, a narrowing of the passageways for spinal nerves, in her neck and back areas, which he said have caused intense pain and sleeping problems. While Park has been permitted to make several visits to a Seoul hospital to receive pain management treatments, her conditions have worsened to a point where more serious medical care and surgery are required, Yoo said.

Filipinos start evacuating from Libyan capital; 1 wounded

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine diplomats say they have started evacuating a small group of Filipinos from the Libyan capital after it was hit by a barrage of rocket fire that wounded one Filipino. Department of Foreign Affairs spokesman Emmanuel Fernandez said Thursday three hospital workers and four students were evacuated by Philippine Embassy personnel from Tripoli to Tunisia, where they are to take flights back home. Manila's top diplomat in Tripoli, Elmer Cato, says 13 more Filipinos have sought help and are expected to be flown back home soon. Cato says that of about 1,000 Filipinos in Tripoli, only 20 have so far asked to be repatriated, including Rolando Torres, who was wounded in the forehead in the rocket fire late Tuesday in the Libyan capital.

Indonesia's Widodo set for 2nd term as president

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—Indonesian President Joko Widodo has won a second five-year term, preliminary election results showed Wednesday, in a victory for moderation over the nationalistic rhetoric of his rival, Prabowo Subianto.

Widodo

Vote counts from five independent survey groups showed Widodo with a clear lead over Subianto, a general during the era of the Suharto military dictatorship who warned Indonesia would fall apart without his strongman leadership.

The so-called "quick counts" from reputable survey organizations that use a sample of polling stations have been reliable in past elections. With an average of 80% of sample polling stations counted, the five survey organizations showed Widodo winning 54-56% of the vote, a modest improvement on his 2014 showing.

Indonesia, the world's most populous Muslim-majority nation, is an outpost of democracy in a Southeast Asian neighborhood of authoritarian governments and is forecast to be among the world's biggest economies by 2030. A second term for Widodo, the first Indonesian president from outside the Jakarta elite, could further cement the country's two decades of democratization.

Addressing jubilant supporters a few hours after polls closed, Widodo said he was aware of his lead and called for the nation to reunite after the divisions of the campaign.

"From the indications of the exit poll and also the quick counts, we can see it all, but we must be patient to wait for the official counting from the Election Commission," he said.

Subianto, who also lost to Widodo in the 2014 presidential election, had not yet conceded defeat. He said his campaign's exit poll and quick count showed that he had won but urged his supporters not to cause chaos.

His campaign team has alleged massive voter list irregularities, but analysts say the claims are absurd and designed to undermine the election.

The balloting was a huge logistical exercise with 193 million people eligible to vote, more than 800,000 polling stations and 17 million people involved in ensuring the polls ran smoothly. Helicopters, boats and horses were used to get ballots to remote and inaccessible corners of the archipelago.

Conservative opponents had tried to discredit Widodo, a furniture exporter whose political career started as a small city mayor, as insufficiently Islamic.

Widodo tried to neutralize the not-a-real-Muslim whispers with the selection of Ma'ruf Amin, the leading Islamic cleric in Indonesia, as his running mate, though he risked alienating progressive and moderate supporters.

Pre-election polls consistently gave a lead of as much as 20 percentage points to Widodo, widely known by the nickname "Jokowi."

"I've voted for Jokowi because five years in office was not enough for him to complete his brilliant programs for infrastructure, health and education," said Eko Cahya Pratama, 43, after voting in Tangerang on the outskirts of Jakarta.

World

As police wait to arrest him, ex-Peru president kills self

AP

Police officers stand guard at the emergency entrance of the Casimiro Ulloa hospital where former Peruvian President Alan Garcia was taken after he shot himself, in Lima, Peru, Wednesday, April 17, 2019. García shot himself in the head before being detained by police amid allegations he received illegal payment from Brazilian construction giant Odebrecht, his lawyer said Wednesday.

LIMA, Peru (AP)—Former President Alan Garcia mortally wounded himself with a gunshot to his head Wednesday as officers waited to arrest him in a big graft probe that has put Peru's most prominent politicians behind bars and provoked a reckoning over corruption.

Authorities broke through a door at Garcia's mansion in a leafy, upscale neighborhood of the Peruvian capital after hearing gunfire. The 69-year-old former head of state was rushed to a hospital, where a team of doctors performed emergency surgery but could not save him.

"The president, upset over this situation, knowing his absolute innocence ... had this terrible accident," said his lawyer, Erasmo Reyna.

It was a shocking end for a man who twice governed Peru—once in the 1980s and then again more than two decades later. In more recent years, he became ensnared in Latin America's biggest corruption scandal, a sweeping investigation of politicians' dealings with the giant Brazilian construction company Odebrecht.

No country outside Brazil has gone as far as Peru in prosecuting politicians tied to Odebrecht, which admitted in a 2016 plea agreement in the U.S. that it paid nearly $800 million throughout Latin America in exchange for lucrative public works contracts.

Peruvian politicians have described the investigation as a political witch hunt. Prosecutors and anti-corruption advocates insist the arrests show the South American nation is finally holding leaders accountable.

Several leaders called on Peruvians to set aside politics as the nation mourns Garcia, a populist firebrand whose second presidency helped usher in a commodities-led investment boom.

"It doesn't matter your political hue, Peru is in mourning," politician Gilbert Violeta wrote on Twitter. "This is a tragedy for our country."

Condolences poured in from throughout Latin America as leaders recalled a man who at his peak was called the John F. Kennedy of Latin America.

"With virtues and imperfections, he realized great changes that allowed Peru's economy to become one of the fastest-growing in Latin America and in the world," former Mexican President Felipe Calderon said.

Garcia was born into a middle-class family in the capital, the child of a politician father whose party became Garcia's own. He went on to a career marked by epic triumphs and devastating setbacks, a roller-coaster of a political life fueled by his charisma and capacity for reinvention.

Ultimately, though, the former president was an increasingly isolated figure. As investigators closed in, he argued that he was the victim of false testimony about taking bribes from Odebrecht during the construction of Lima's metro. He had not been formally charged.

In December, Garcia sought asylum in Uruguay's embassy, staying there for a little more than two weeks before his request was denied. Uruguayan President Tabaré Vázquez said there was no evidence to support Garcia's contention he was being political targeted.

He vowed to cooperate with any investigation and defended himself up to the day before his death.

"I am not mentioned in any document and in any evidence," he wrote Tuesday on Twitter. "They're left to SPECULATE or invent intermediaries. I never sold out and it's proven."

When authorities arrived Wednesday at Garcia's home, they met him on the staircase to the second floor. He asked for a moment to call his attorney, entered another room and closed the door behind him. Moments later, gunfire rang out. Police found him seated, bleeding profusely, Interior Minister Carlos Moran said.

Bells of French cathedrals ring in tribute to Notre Dame

PARIS (AP)—Bells of cathedrals across France rang in a moving tribute Wednesday to Notre Dame as firefighters and experts continued to keep the beloved but weakened landmark under close surveillance.

From Sacre Coeur in Paris to the cities of Strasbourg in the east and Rouen in the west, the architectural treasures of France solemnly marked the inferno, two days after it ravaged the gothic cathedral, widely regarded as the soul of France.

"I just arrived for the first ring of the bells and immediately there was an emotion. Incredible, indescribable, I just can't explain it," said Nadia Pascassio-Comte, in Strasbourg. "It was beautiful and sad at the same time. I had tears in my eyes at one point, and I think that this solidarity is magical, it really unites a lot of people."

At Saint Sulpice church, the second-largest house of worship in Paris, French first lady Brigitte Macron attended a special service for the annual blessing of the oils during Holy Week, ahead of Easter Sunday.

Meanwhile, restoration specialists questioned President Emmanuel Macron's ambitious five-year reconstruction timeline for Notre Dame, with some suggesting it could take more than three times that amount of time to rebuild the 850-year-old architectural treasure.

Even Prime Minister Edouard Philippe acknowledged Wednesday that it would be difficult.

"This is obviously an immense challenge, a historic responsibility," Philippe said after a Cabinet meeting focused on the restoration.

Prominent French conservation architect Pierluigi Pericolo told Inrocks magazine the restoration work could take "no less than 15 years. ... It's a colossal task."

Pericolo, who worked on the restoration of the 19th-century St.-Donatien Basilica, which was badly damaged in a 2015 blaze in the French city of Nantes, said it could take two to five years just to check the stability of Notre Dame, which dominates the Paris skyline.

"It's a fundamental step, and very complex, because it's difficult to send workers into a monument whose vaulted ceilings are swollen with water," Pericolo told France-Info. "The end of the fire doesn't mean the edifice is totally saved. The stone can deteriorate when it is exposed to high temperatures and change its mineral composition and fracture inside."

Macron received some support for his lofty five-year restoration goal from his presidential cultural heritage envoy, Stephane Bern, who said it was realistic to reopen Notre Dame to the public in time for the Olympic Games in Paris in 2024. However, he did not indicate whether the reconstruction work would be completed by then.

Speaking after a meeting at the presidential palace about the monument's reconstruction, Bern said Macron didn't express his views regarding the rebuilding of the cathedral's lead roof, or whether the frame should be restored in wood like the destroyed one, or in metal or concrete. He also said France would hold an international architecture competition to determine whether the collapsed 19th-century spire would be rebuilt to the same design or a new one.

Meanwhile, Notre Dame's rector said he would close the cathedral for up to "five to six years," acknowledging that a segment of the structure may be gravely weakened.

Israel's president formally nominates Netanyahu as PM

JERUSALEM (AP)—Israel's president on Wednesday formally nominated Benjamin Netanyahu for a fourth consecutive term as prime minister, officially launching a process that is expected to result in a new government dominated by religious and nationalist parties in the coming weeks.

In one of the president's few non-ceremonial roles, President Reuven Rivlin tasked Netanyahu with assembling a governing coalition within 42 days.

The move was widely expected after Netanyahu's Likud party and its right-wing allies captured a majority of seats in parliamentary elections last week.

In a joint appearance after the two leaders signed and presented the official nomination, Rivlin called on Netanyahu to "heal the wounds and rifts" laid bare in Israeli society by the bruising election campaign.

Netanyahu said he was "moved" to accept his fifth nomination as prime minister "as though it's the first time, and in a certain way, even more than the first time."

He said he would "do everything to earn the trust that the citizens of Israel have bestowed on me."

In a post-election ritual, Rivlin hosted consultations with party leaders this week to hear their recommendations for who should serve as the next prime minister.

Netanyahu's nationalist and religious allies all lobbied for Netanyahu to continue as prime minister. The last one to hold out, former Defense Minister Avigdor Lieberman of the hawkish Yisrael Beitenu party, formally confirmed his support for Netanyahu late Monday.

Netanyahu's right-wing bloc—made up of Kulanu, the Union of Right Wing Parties, Yisrael Beitenu and the ultra-Orthodox Shas and United Torah Judaism—now commands a 65-55 majority in the 120-seat parliament.

In the coming weeks, Netanyahu will have to negotiate coalition deals with his partners, who will jockey for powerful Cabinet posts with large and influential budgets.

If Netanyahu fails to form a coalition within 42 days, Benny Gantz, leader of the rival centrist Blue and White party, would be given a shot at assembling a government.

But that doesn't appear to be in the cards. "We will establish a right-wing government as soon as possible, likely within a month," said Yonatan Ulrich, a spokesman for the prime minister.

In a matter of months, Netanyahu will officially become Israel's longest-serving prime minister, surpassing David Ben-Gurion, the country's founding father.

Off The Wall

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

3 naked women at rest stop lead deputies on chase in Florida

DADE CITY, Fla. (AP)—Authorities say three women who were applying suntan lotion publicly in the nude at a Florida rest stop led police on a 21-mile (34-kilometer) chase, drove a car at a deputy and threatened another deputy with a bat. The Florida Highway Patrol says when a deputy approached the women at the Interstate 75 rest stop Wednesday in Dade City, they started dressing. They said they had been staying at a relative's home but went to the rest stop after an altercation and had nowhere else to go. The Tampa Bay Times reports the women claimed they were "air drying" after washing up. The women then fled in a car. The three ultimately were caught. They've been charged with aggravated assault on a law enforcement officer, resisting arrest, fleeing to elude and indecent exposure.

Part of giant hammer artwork stolen in California returned

SANTA ROSA, Calif. (AP)—Northern California authorities say that part of a giant hammer stolen last year has been returned. The Press Democrat in Santa Rosa reports that a local attorney told Healdsburg police Thursday that someone had left the hammerhead portion on Sonoma County property owned by a client. Santa Rosa attorney Izaak Schwaiger said his client wished to remain anonymous but asked him to "mediate the artwork's return." The hammerhead weighs more than 200 pounds (90 kilograms) and is 6 feet (2 meters) tall. It disappeared in October. Artist Doug Unkrey says the head needs refurbishing. He also needs the return of the 21-foot (6-meter) long redwood handle, or make a new one. The entire piece weighed about 800 pounds (363 kilograms). The art is valued at $15,000.

Mysterious bowls of mashed potatoes confuse Mississippians

JACKSON, Miss. (AP)—Residents of a neighborhood in Jackson, Mississippi, are confused by the bowls of mashed potatoes they're finding on their cars, porches and mailboxes. Resident Jordan Lewis described the Belhaven neighborhood as a quirky one, with residents decorating road signs and putting Christmas trees in potholes. "So we don't know if someone is just playing a prank or if someone just had a lot of leftovers," Lewis said. But Sebastian Bjernegard says some residents fear there's a more sinister message behind the potatoes. "Some people were thinking maybe the mashed potatoes were poisoned to kill animals," he said, noting that he almost stepped into a bowl of potatoes Tuesday. "I didn't taste it. I have a three-second rule, so I didn't touch it. But some people were worried." It's unclear if anyone has eaten the potatoes, and news outlets report residents haven't alerted law enforcement. Resident Michaela Lin says some of potato-finders have connections to a local private Christian university, which may be a clue.

Harvard dorm ends decades-old goat roast tradition

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. (AP)—A Harvard University residence hall is ending a decades-old tradition of skinning and barbecuing a goat in the courtyard. The Harvard Crimson student newspaper reports that Dunster House Faculty Deans Cheryl Chen and Sean Kelly informed students of the decision in an email last week, citing student discomfort with the tradition and health concerns. They say Dunster will continue to hold a "goat roast," just without an actual goat. The annual event began in the 1980s as a spinoff of a primitive survival course taught by human and evolutionary biology professor Daniel Lieberman. After the goat is skinned, students and house staff marinated the carcass in lime, curry, salt, pepper, herbs and garlic, and then roasted it the next day on a spit over a bed of coals.

German police: Shiny gold Porsche a danger to other drivers

BERLIN (AP)—German authorities have ordered a blinged-out golden Porsche off the road for being too shiny. Hamburg's Morgenpost reported Friday the 31-year-old driver was stopped in the northern city last week and told his Porsche Panamera, sporting a reflective gold foil finish, might blind other drivers and was a danger. He was told to remove the foil and re-register the car, but police say he continued to drive it. The driver was stopped again Wednesday and police took his keys, papers and license plate, before the vehicle was towed to a garage. He was fined an unspecified amount and will have to remove the foil to make the car street legal again. Morgenpost reports a Lamborghini owner nabbed at the same time with similar gold foil complied and removed it.

Colorado city votes to rename 'Swastika Acres' neighborhood

CHERRY HILLS VILLAGE, Colo. (AP)—A Colorado city has voted to drop the name "Swastika Acres" from a subdivision. KDVR-TV reports the Cherry Hills Village City Council voted unanimously Tuesday to approve a name change to "Old Cherry Hills" to prevent future controversy. The neighborhood in the Denver suburb was named Swastika Acres decades before the symbol was adopted by the Nazis. Councilman Dan Sheldon spearheaded the change and says the name comes from the Denver Land Swastika Company that divided area land into plots near the turn of the 20th Century. While the name cannot be found on road signs, it still appeared on real estate closing documents. Sheldon says one woman opposed the change to preserve the historical value of the symbol, despite having lost family in the Holocaust.

Police: Pair made laxative cookies for striking workers

UHRICHSVILLE, Ohio (AP)—Police say a couple made laxative-laced cookies for striking school employees because they were tired of the noise from the picket line near their home. Authorities in eastern Ohio say none of the striking workers ate the sugar cookies, but the couple was charged with contaminating the treats. Police say the pair complained on Facebook about drivers honking in support of the striking bus drivers, cooks and custodians. Investigators say they also made a video showing the laxative pills being mixed into the cookie batter. The strike in the Claymont School District in Tuscarawas (tus-kuh-RAH'-wus) County is in its third week. Authorities say Bo Cosens and Rachel Sharrock appeared in court Tuesday to face several charges.

MESSAGE OF APPRECIATION

†Kern Francis Deleon Pangelinan

We wish to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to all our family and friends for the genuine words of sympathy, the unselfish assistance and donations you all have extended to us during our time of mourning, and most especially for your presence, thoughts and prayers for our beloved Kern.

Our deepest appreciation goes out to Pale James Balajadia for presiding over the daily masses and the Christian Burial, our techas Mrs. Marcy P. Cepeda and Mrs. Marilyn P. Jones for leading the nightly rosary. The St. Jude Thaddaeus Choir and the Olomaay Family Choir for the beautiful serenade. The volunteers of St. Jude Church and Borja's Funeral Home for the coordination and services.

To all those who have helped us in one way or another, your presence, compassion, and generosity will always be remembered.

Si Yu'us Ma'ase

Frederick Koyama & Leonora Deleon Pangelinan & Family

Oh glorious apostle St. Jude, faithful servant and friend of Jesus, the name of the traitor who delivered thy beloved Master into the hands of His enemies has caused thee to be forgotten by many, but the Church honors and invokes thee universally as the patron of hopeless cases--of things despaired of. Pray for me who am so miserable; make use, I implore thee, of that particular privilege accorded thee of bringing visible and speedy help where help is almost despaired of. Come to my assistance in this great need, that I may receive the consolations and succor of heaven in all my necessities, tribulations and sufferings, particularly (mention your request), and that I may bless God with thee and all the elect throughout eternity. I promise thee, O blessed St. Jude, to be ever mindful of this great favor, and I will never cease to honor thee as my special and powerful patron, and to do all in my power to encourage devotion to thee. Amen

Science & Technology

Electric scooters have zipped by docked bikes in popularity

NEW YORK (AP)—Love them or hate them, electric scooters are everywhere—zipping along city streets and littered on sidewalks, to the dismay of pedestrians and drivers who must share the road.

And now they have overtaken station-based bicycles as the most popular form of shared transportation outside transit and cars in the U.S.

According to a new report released Wednesday by the National Association of City Transportation Officials, riders took 38.5 million trips on shared electric scooters in 2018, eclipsing the 36.5 million trips on shared, docked bicycles.

Riders also took trips on 3 million dockless pedal bikes, which can be picked up and dropped off anywhere, and 6.5 million dockless electric bikes in 2018, but the report notes those numbers are declining.

One reason for electric scooters' fast growth: companies are jockeying for strategic position in the so-called micromobility revolution, where consumers are embracing shared scooters and bikes for short trips and exploring alternatives to car ownership buoyed by the ubiquity of smartphones.

Riders took 84 million trips on micromobility services in 2018, more than double the number from the year before, according to the report. Electric scooters helped drive that trend, with more than 85,000 of them available for public use in the U.S. compared with 57,000 station-based bikes.

AP

In this Dec. 6, 2018, photo Bird scooters are parked besides a bike sharing docking station in downtown in downtown Washington.

To be sure, scooter companies face challenges from every direction, including vandalism, theft, rider injuries, intense competition and aggressive regulations in cities across the country.

Yet the industry persists and venture capitalists, ride-hailing companies and traditional auto manufacturers have poured millions of dollars into the fledgling business.

The original bike-share systems in the U.S. developed after cities invited them in, said Kate Fillin-Yeh, director of strategy for the National Association for City Transportation Officials.

"In the last year-and-a-half, it's a very different animal," she said. "The companies are in some cases trying to beat each other to the market."

Bird, a Santa Monica-based scooter company launched in late 2017, raised $418 million and rang up more than 10 million rides in its first year. Lime, which offers shared bikes and scooters, clocked more than 12 million rides and $467 million in investment in its first 15 months.

Car manufacturers and ride-hailing companies are taking notice, and some have made their own plays in the space with larger ambitions than scooters alone.

Uber bought Jump Bikes, an electric bike and scooter company that operates in about two dozen cities, and last year it invested $30 million in Lime, which is in more than 100 cities worldwide.

Ford, which bought scooter company Spin in November, said deploying electric scooters will help the company eventually roll out autonomous vehicles by building critical relationships with U.S. cities as they work together to craft regulations and build out infrastructure.

"In this next revolution of micromobility, the cities are taking a more active stance in how they're going to participate," Sunny Madra, vice president of Ford's mobility businesses, told The Associated Press late last year. "By doing this now in advance of autonomous programs and other forms of mobility that will come up, this is a great way for us to make sure that we're a part of the transformation of mobility."

If it seems like electric scooters popped up overnight, that's because they did. Several companies distributed them throughout cities without permission or permits, reminding local officials of when ride-hailing companies such as Uber launched in their markets years ago without warning.

But cities learned from that experience and have been more aggressive about regulating scooters. San Francisco, for instance, kicked out Bird, Lime and Spin and instituted a competition for permits, ultimately awarding them to relative underdogs Scoot and Skip and capping the number of scooters they could deploy. New York City does not allow shared electric scooters, although legislation has been introduce to change the rule.

As a condition for operating there, many cities are requiring scooter companies to share their troves of location data, which show where the scooters are and the routes they take. That can be valuable to plan bike routes and docking stations or to understand traffic patterns.

It also raises questions about user privacy. The location data provided to cities is not linked to names, emails or other directly identifiable information, but "if you take enough GPS data points and begin attaching other data sets, it can be used to identify specific individuals," said Regina Clewlow, CEO of Populus, a company that helps cities securely access data for policy and planning while protecting privacy.

Some of Samsung's new folding phones are already breaking

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Some of Samsung's new, almost $2,000 folding phones appear to be breaking after just a couple of days.

Journalists who received the phones to review before the public launch said the Galaxy Fold screen started flickering and turning black before completely fizzling out. Two journalists said they removed a thin, protective layer from the screens that they thought was supposed to come off, but was meant to stay.

But reporters from The Verge and CNBC said they left that layer on and their screens still broke. A CNBC video shows the left side of the inside screen intermittently flashing, and the right side as unresponsive.

The phone was "completely unusable" after two days, CNBC reporter Todd Haselton wrote .

The long-anticipated folding phone is about the size of a standard smartphone when folded, but can open up to the size of a small tablet. The phone is designed to work whether closed or open; when open, the single screen display is bisected by a crease.

AP

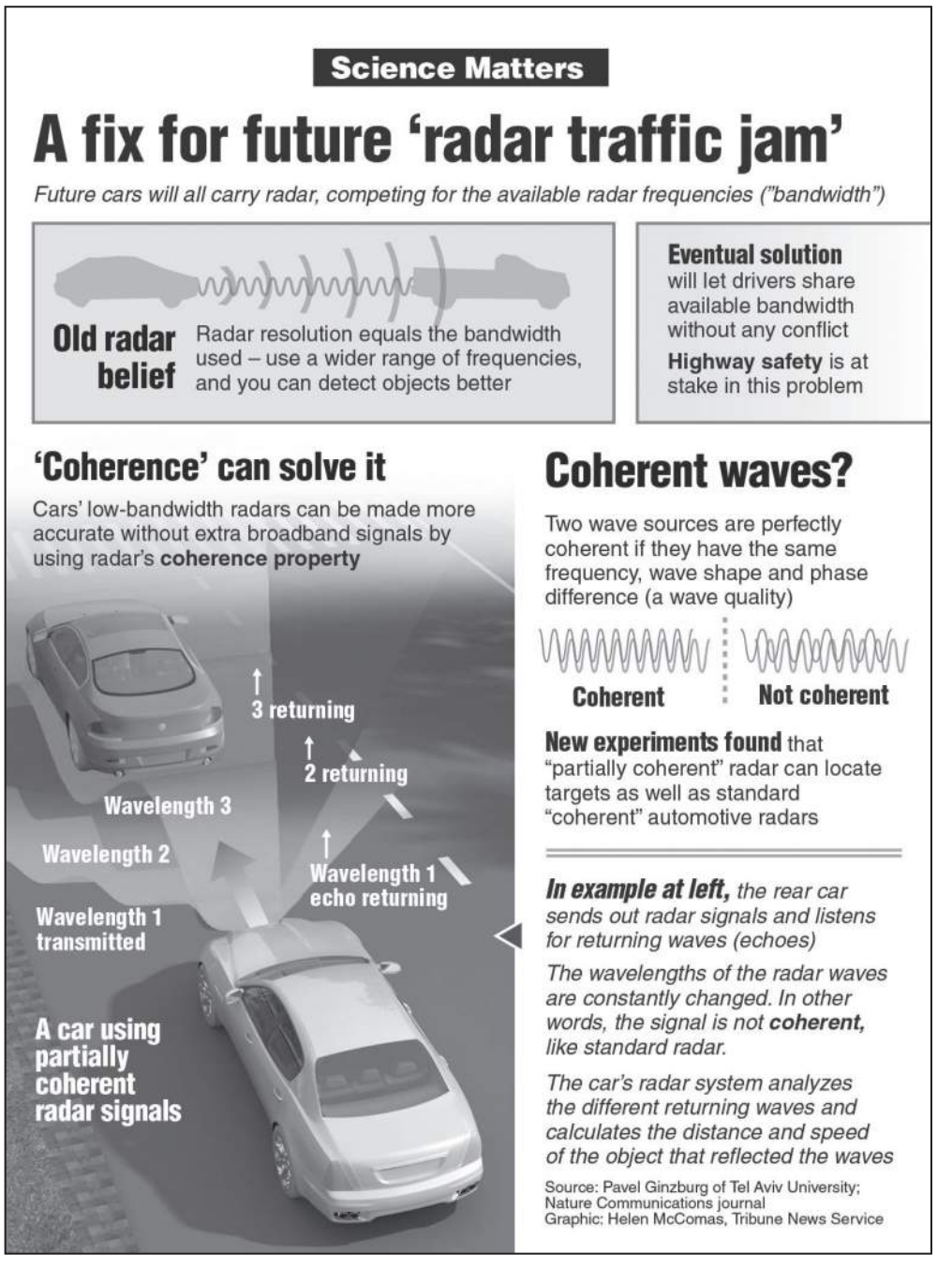
The Samsung Galaxy Fold smartphone is seen during a media preview event in London, Tuesday April 16, 2019.

Samsung promises the screen can withstand being opened and closed 200,000 times, or 100 times a day for five years.

The Galaxy Fold goes on sale April 26 in the U.S. for $1,980, making it one of the most expensive phones anywhere—particularly if it isn't as durable as promised.

Samsung did not immediately comment.

The company had a disastrous rollout of a new phone in 2016 with the Galaxy Note 7, which Samsung eventually recalled because its batteries were catching on fire.


Science Matters
A fix for future 'radar traffic jam'
Future cars will all carry radar, competing for the available radar frequencies ("bandwidth")
Old radar belief
Radar resolution equals the bandwidth used – use a wider range of frequencies, and you can detect objects better
Eventual solution
will let drivers share available bandwidth without any conflict
Highway safety is at stake in this problem
'Coherence' can solve it
Cars' low-bandwidth radars can be made more accurate without extra broadband signals by using radar's coherence property
3 returning
2 returning
Wavelength 3
Wavelength 2
Wavelength 1 echo returning
Wavelength 1 transmitted
A car using partially coherent radar signals
Coherent waves?
Two wave sources are perfectly coherent if they have the same frequency, wave shape and phase difference (a wave quality)
Coherent
Not coherent
New experiments found that "partially coherent" radar can locate targets as well as standard "coherent" automotive radars
In example at left, the rear car sends out radar signals and listens for returning waves (echoes)
The wavelengths of the radar waves are constantly changed. In other words, the signal is not coherent, like standard radar.
The car's radar system analyzes the different returning waves and calculates the distance and speed of the object that reflected the waves
Source: Pavel Ginzburg of Tel Aviv University; Nature Communications journal
Graphic: Helen McComas, Tribune News Service

Life & Style

Beyoncé drops surprise new album

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Beyoncé has surprised her fans by releasing a soundtrack to her Netflix documentary "Homecoming."

The 37-year-old superstar debuted "Homecoming: The Live Album" Wednesday, the same day a Netflix documentary exploring her historic performances at the 2018 Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival was released.

She was the first black woman to headline the event in which she paid tribute to America's historically black colleges.

The album features 40 tracks including "Single Ladies" and "Crazy in Love." There's also a special version of "Lift Every Voice and Sing" by her oldest daughter, Blue Ivy.

It is available through most major streaming services.

Beyoncé first surprised fans when she unexpectedly dropped her fifth studio album, "Beyoncé," in 2013.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Both sides want Weinstein hearing closed to media, public

NEW YORK (AP)—Both sides in Harvey Weinstein's sexual assault case want the media and the public barred from the disgraced movie mogul's next court appearance. Prosecutors argue the April 26 hearing should be closed to protect Weinstein's right to a fair trial and for the privacy of women whose allegations against him aren't part of the underlying criminal case. Prosecutors want the women to testify at Weinstein's June 3 trial to show he has had a pattern of violating women. They also expect to discuss evidence that could be used against Weinstein if he testifies. Weinstein's lawyers say news coverage of the hearing could taint the jury pool. Weinstein denies all allegations of nonconsensual sex. News organizations say they'll fight to keep the hearing open. A judge says he'll hear from them before deciding.

'Bridesmaids' writers Wiig, Mumolo to reunite 8 years later

NEW YORK (AP)—"Bridesmaids" writers Kristen Wiig and Annie Mumolo are finally reuniting, eight years after their smash hit comedy. Lionsgate announced Wednesday that it will produce "Barb and Star Go to Vista Del Mar" from a script by Wiig and Mumolo. They will each also co-star in the film as best friends who leave their Midwestern town for a vacation in Florida. The film is planned for release next year, with Josh Greenbaum directing. The filmmakers and stars of "Bridesmaids" have long shrugged off the possibility of a sequel. But the reunion of Wiig and Mumolo had been eagerly awaited. They first announced the "Barb and Star" project in 2014. It was then set up at TriStar Productions, with Wiig directing. Made for $32.5 million, "Bridesmaids" grossed $288.4 million worldwide.

Time releases its 100 most influential people issue

NEW YORK (AP)—Taylor Swift, TV journalist Gayle King and soccer star Mohamed Salah are among the six famous faces featured on the covers of Time's annual "100 Most Influential People in the World" issue.

The other cover stars also included House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and actors Sandra Oh and Dwayne Johnson.

Fellow Democrat Hillary Clinton wrote Pelosi "is living proof that when it comes to getting the job done, more often than not, it takes a woman."

Johnson was praised for establishing a positive work environment, while Oh is cited for her creative life.

Musician Shawn Mendes wrote Swift "makes anyone older feel young again."

The issue is comprised of short tributes written by fellow global luminaries throughout all industries.

Beyoncé penned an essay on former first lady Michelle Obama. President Donald Trump and Special Counsel Robert Mueller were also on this year's list.

AP

This combination photo shows President Donald Trump, top row from left, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, CBS News' Gayle King, bottom row from left, actor-producer Dwayne Johnson, actress Sandra Oh and singer Taylor Swift are among the people honored in Time's "100 Most Influential People in the World" issue.

Judge says Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt are now single

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt are officially single, though more work is left before the terms of their divorce are final.

Los Angeles Superior Court documents show that Judge John W. Ouderkirk entered a judgment Friday, saying the couple is no longer married. Her name was also restored to just Jolie, not Jolie Pitt.

The couple's lawyers had asked for a bifurcated judgment, meaning that two married people can be declared single before all issues in the divorce are agreed upon.

It's not clear what issues remain unresolved in the divorce, but Jolie has filed papers saying Pitt wasn't paying sufficient child support, which his attorneys disputed.

The 43-year-old Jolie and the 55-year-old Pitt have six children. They were married in 2014, and Jolie filed for divorce in 2016.

Gambler sets another 1-day winnings record on 'Jeopardy!'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A professional sports gambler from Las Vegas has broken his own single-episode winnings record on "Jeopardy!"

James Holzhauer won $131,127 during a show aired Wednesday night, breaking the record that viewers saw him set last week.

Due to the game show's taping schedule, the records were actually set one day apart, with Holzhauer's new high score occurring on Feb. 12.

Wednesday's win marks the 10th consecutive win for the 34-year-old Holzhauer. Before his run, the previous episode record was $77,000 and was set by Roger Craig in 2010.

"Jeopardy!" host Alex Trebek, who revealed in March that he was diagnosed with advanced pancreatic cancer, posted a message Wednesday thanking fans for their well-wishes and said he's feeling good and continuing with his therapy.

Girl's severe allergies cause strain with animal-loving aunt

DEAR ABBY: My 8-year-old daughter is seriously allergic to most animals, including cats and dogs. Even a little fur sets her off. She was recently sent home from school sick after she had borrowed a sweater from a friend who has a cat. We are working with an allergist, but this isn't something that's going to go away with simple treatment.

My sister lives in a different state and has invited my family to spend the holidays at her home this year. However, she recently started fostering stray animals for a local shelter and has between five and 10 of them in her house at a time, in addition to their two cats and a dog. I have told my sister we can't visit her with the animals there. Although she insists that she'll vacuum and it will be OK, there is no way this is safe for my kid. Even if we slept at a hotel, spending the day in a "furry" house will be uncomfortable if not dangerous for my daughter.

My brother-in-law has a mild allergy for which he takes over-the-counter medication. My sister refuses to understand that this is different. She thinks I'm being difficult and overprotective, and she's angry at me. She's also unwilling to consider coming to our house. How do I get her to see that this isn't about her, and I'm just protecting my kid?

FUR'S FLYIN' IN NEW JERSEY

DEAR FUR'S FLYIN': Ask your daughter's doctor to please—in the name of family harmony—write you a short letter explaining that because of your daughter's severe allergy, she cannot be in an environment that hasn't been professionally sanitized, and simply vacuuming isn't enough to guarantee your daughter won't wind up in an emergency room. Forward a copy of the letter to your sister with a loving note explaining that you aren't trying to hurt her feelings, but your daughter's health MUST come first. Then stick to your guns!

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I married late in life, and while he has never been married before, I have an adult child from a previous marriage. My husband's parents have long passed away, but his two siblings are torturing him. They are exceedingly bothered by the money and time my husband spends on us, constantly complaining to him that his "blood" family should be more important than his new family. How can we turn this situation around other than cut them off completely (as his therapist has suggested)?

FRUSTRATED SISTER-IN-LAW

DEAR S-I-L: Your husband is paying good money for the advice he is receiving from his therapist. What the therapist is telling him makes sense. You cannot change your greedy, envious in-laws. You will save yourselves a world of pain and aggravation if you take the advice you have been given and distance yourselves both physically and emotionally.

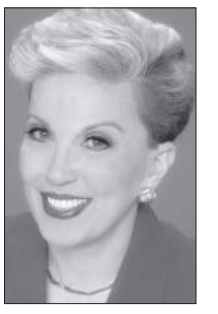
TO MY JEWISH READERS: Passover begins at sundown. Happy Passover, everyone!

LOVE, ABBY

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

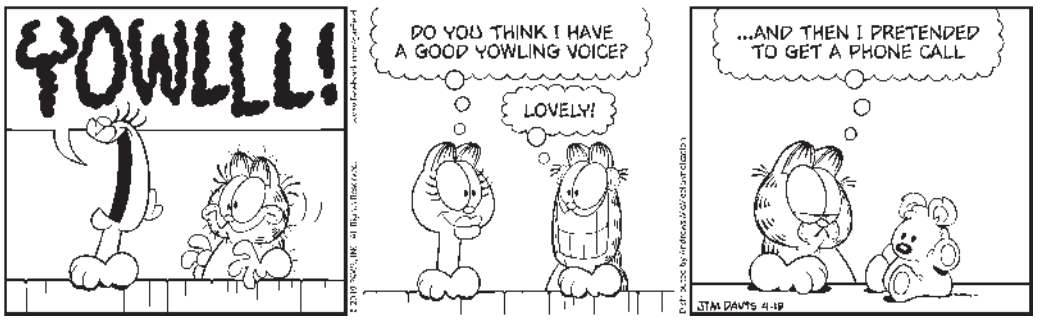
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

MY HICCUPS ARE GONE! THEY FINALLY WENT AWAY ALL BY THEMSELVES! WHAT A RELIEF!
AUGH!
DID I SCARE YOU? DID I CURE YOUR HICCUPS?
HIC
1-12

Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

WHAT'S UP, BUD?
AH, NUTHIN'
MAGICIAN LIFE GOT YOU DOWN?
YEAH, I GUESS. I JUST... THOUGHT IT'D BE ALL GLITZ AND GLAMOUR.
THEN THE DOG CHEWS ON YOUR CARDS.
RIGHT?? AND THIS CAPE IS ITCHY!!

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 "Big Blue"
4 Twice cuatro
8 Tubular pasta
12 PBS funder
13 Beloved
14 Optimist's credo
15 Standards
17 Profs' degrees
18 Finally
19 Snooze
21 Sound from a hot wok
22 "Conga" singer Estefan
26 Eastern European cake
29 Wager
30 Nile reptile
31 Novelist Anita
32 "Mayday!"
33 Ovid's 53
34 Hostel
35 Farm pen
36 Tightly packed
37 Illinois city
39 Day light
40 Corn serving
41 Tempt
45 Wicked
48 Bliss
50 News reporter Logan
51 Nepal's continent
52 "— a Wonderful Life"
53 Linen source
54 Squad
55 Command to Rover

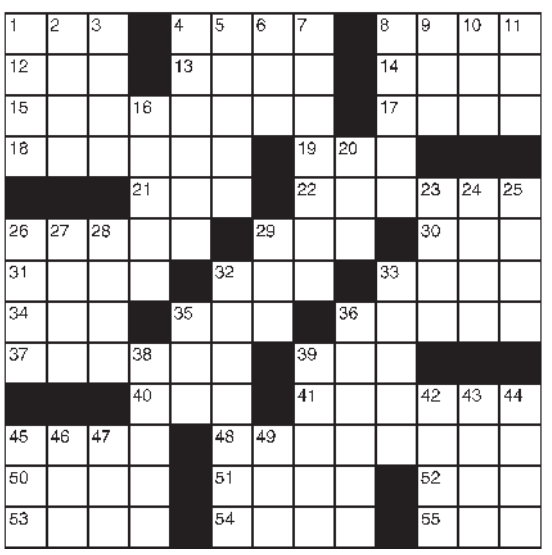
DOWN

1 Early Peruvian
2 Emie's pal
3 Postal delivery
4 Black Sea port
5 Breath mint brand
6 "Bali —"
7 Vitamin C providers
8 Lighter brand
9 German pronoun
10 Wee bit
11 — and outs
16 To-do list items
20 PC key
23 Picnic spoiler
24 Egyptian deity
25 "... baked in —"
26 Radar dot
27 First-rate
28 U2 lead singer
29 Lad
32 Ogle
33 Slow, in music
35 "Chandelier" singer
36 "Girls" star Lena
38 Chill out
39 Old photo tint
42 Rainbow
43 New York's — Field
44 Sunrise direction
45 Sprite
46 Actor Kilmer
47 401(k) alternative
49 Work with

Solution time: 25 mins.

E	B	O	N	■	L	U	G	S	■	S	E	W
T	U	B	A	■	U	N	I	T	■	T	R	A
A	T	O	M	■	C	A	G	E	■	O	■	L
S	T	E	A	M	Y	■	■	M	O	N	E	T
■	■	■	T	O	■	E	N	S	U	E	■	■
S	A	S	H	■	A	X	E	■	H	A	G	E
H	O	⌐	■	■	J	I	I	■	■	G	E	E
F	_	A	B	■	E	T	S	■	B	E	L	L
■	■	C	E	N	T	S	■	Y	O	■	■	■
C	H	=	D	O	■	■	H	J	H	R	E	D
L	E	A	■	M	I	D	C	L	E	A	G	E
A	N	G	■	A	S	I	F	■	A	R	O	N
N	E	=	■	D	O	G	S	■	L	E	S	S

Yesterday's answer 4-19



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Hayden Christensen, 38; Kate Hudson, 40; Ashley Judd, 51; Tim Curry, 73.

Happy Birthday: Don't waste time. Size up what you want, and take steps to make your dreams come true. Communication, traveling and experience will be the vehicles that motivate and move you to do what's right and best for you. Strive for perfection and equality, and build a strong base. How steady and stable you are will determine how high you can go. Your numbers are 2, 9, 16, 26, 35, 42, 46.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Keep your plans to yourself until you have fully fleshed out your ideas. Sticking to your budget and being reasonable and responsible will increase your chance to succeed. Make arrangements to do something special with someone you love. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* A financial, medical or legal change looks promising. Don't leave anything to chance. Get your fundamentals in order, and plan your actions carefully. You stand to gain in more ways than one. Celebrate with someone you love. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* You may feel like speeding things up, but before you jump too quickly, take a closer look at the information you've been given. It's better to be skeptical and ask questions than to forge ahead blindly and suffer regret. 5 stars

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Use your ingenuity to outsmart anyone trying to push or persuade you to do something questionable. Take the safe route, and stick to the people who are reliable and offer facts to back their claims. A personal change looks inviting. ✪✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* An invitation is worth looking at as long as it doesn't infringe on your bank balance. Only sign up for what you can afford. Don't feel you have to buy someone's attention or take on responsibilities that don't belong to you. ✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Take part in something that interests you. A change of scenery will do you good and be conducive to meeting exceptional people. Share your experience with someone you love, and it will make your day special as well as enhance your relationship. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Address pressing issues before a situation escalates. Do your prep work before you engage in a discussion that can turn ugly if you aren't fully prepared. Use your strengths and intellect to ensure success. Protect your assets and your passwords. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Face emotional matters openly. You will be able to resolve a problem before it fans into something irreversible. If you are honest regarding your feelings and also willing to compromise, you can come out on top. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* A social event will lead to a change of heart. Don't jump to conclusions based on what someone does or says about someone close to you. Go directly to the source to find out what's going on. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* You may face opposition if you want to make changes that will affect friends, relatives or your domestic environment. Lay out your plans carefully, and be sure to offer incentives to those less likely to jump on board with your intentions. ✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Make changes at home or to your personal paperwork. How you handle your money, health or legal matters will make a difference when dealing with authority figures. Don't leave anything to chance. Details and facts must be authentic. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* A change for the wrong reason will set you back. Consider your motives before you get involved in something that may be risky. Focus on personal improvements and positive change that will benefit you physically, emotionally or financially. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are giving, entertaining and playful. You are flexible and resourceful.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

9			5		7	3		8
	5			9			6	
1								
8								2
	9			1			7	
3								5
								6
	6			5			4	
7		8	1		9			3

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 4/19

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

3	5	2	1	8	7	4	6	9
8	7	9	6	4	5	3	2	1
4	1	6	3	2	9	5	8	7
9	6	5	4	1	2	7	3	8
7	2	4	8	9	3	1	5	6
1	8	3	7	5	6	2	9	4
2	9	7	5	6	4	8	1	3
5	4	1	9	3	8	6	7	2
6	3	8	2	7	1	9	4	5

Difficulty Level ★★★

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

GOOD FRIDAY **Solution: 9 letters**

D	A	K	C	B	E	C	R	U	C	I	F	I	X	C
N	L	H	E	A	E	P	O	P	I	H	S	R	O	W
E	M	S	C	E	(L)	(E)	(N)	(T)	Y	Y	L	M	D	E
T	S	G	I	R	W	V	I	E	R	V	M	N	O	E
T	G	N	L	G	U	Y	A	O	A	E	E	A	H	K
A	I	I	O	U	N	H	L	R	M	J	C	I	T	E
D	V	D	H	I	O	G	C	O	Y	E	I	T	R	N
O	I	A	T	R	T	S	R	R	H	S	V	S	O	D
R	N	E	A	H	E	A	E	G	O	U	R	I	E	N
A	G	R	C	T	T	H	T	L	N	S	E	R	A	O
T	O	E	R	I	T	E	T	S	T	I	S	H	S	I
I	O	D	N	A	L	Y	L	O	H	S	Y	C	T	S
O	D	G	F	F	A	S	T	R	M	M	O	A	E	S
N	M	E	L	O	S	E	L	D	N	A	C	P	R	A
S	M	U	U	D	I	R	T	L	A	H	C	S	A	P

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Adoration, Almsgiving, Apostles, Attend, Calvary, Candles, Catholic, Christian, Church, Commemorating, Cross, Crucifix, Easter, Faith, Fast, Father, Glory, Good, Holy Land, Holy Week, Hymn, Jesus, Lent, Mary, Mother, Orthodox, Paschal Triduum, Passion, Pope, Praying, Readings, Rite, Service, Sign, Solemn, Soul, Stations, Weekend, Worship

Yesterday's Answer: Designer

Jo's Jewels Collector's Edition is back by popular demand. Purchase online at www.WonderWordBooks.com or call 1-800-642-6480.

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

SURROGATES

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Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

Early Intervention Services "The key to the Future"

Special Education State Advisory Panel Special Meeting

April 22, 2019 5:30pm to 7:30pm

AGENDA

I. **Preliminary Matters**
Roll Call
Presence of a Quorum
Adoption of Agenda
Adoption of Minutes
- March 26, 2019

II. **SESAP Bylaws Ratification**

III. **Election of Officers**

IV. **Adjournment**

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The Position: (3) CIVIL ENGINEERING TECHNICIAN

Job Description: Calculate Dimensions, square footage, profile and component specifications and material quantities using calculator or computer; Read and review project blueprints and structural specifications to determine dimensions of structure or system and material requirements; Draft detailed dimensional drawings and design layouts for projects to ensure conformance to specifications; Confer with supervisor to determine project details such as plan preparation, acceptance testing, and evaluation of field conditions; Analyze proposed site factors and design maps, graphs, tracings, and diagrams to illustrate findings; Prepare reports and document project activities and data; Report maintenance problems occurring at project site to supervisor and negotiate changes to resolve system conflicts; Inspect project site and evaluate contractor work to detect design malfunctions and ensure conformance to design specifications and applicable codes; Conduct materials test and analysis using tools and equipment and applying engineering knowledge; Develop plans and estimate costs for installation of systems utilization or facilities or construction of structures.

Minimum Qualifications: Must have at least an Associate Degree in Civil Engineering; With at least 24 months of relevant work experience in civil engineering works; and Must be familiar with all aspects of civil engineering works.

Job Site: Lot # 004 D 110, Chalan Pale Arnold Street, 2nd Floor Tun Kiku Building, Garapan, Saipan, MP 96950

How to Apply: Submit or mail application, Resume and credentials to:

GREGORIO Q. CASTRO
President/CEO
PACIFIC ENGINEERING GROUP & SERVICES (PEGS), LLC
dba SSFM CNMI

Office Address: Lot # 004 D 110, Chalan Pale Arnold Street, 2nd Floor Tun Kiku Building, Garapan, Saipan, MP 96950

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 502713, C.K., Saipan, MP 96950

Email Address: gcastro@pegsmp.com

Telephone Numbers: (670) 233-7770 or (670) 233-7772

Fax Number: (670) 233-7771

Marianas Medical Center

is seeking for U.S. qualified workers for the following position:

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Board and Management Company Administration and Support - The CEO supports the operations and administration of the Board of Directors and Marianas Medical Center's (MMC) Management Team by maintaining continual, open and effective communication between the Board, the MMC Management Team, and the Medical Staff.

Medical Staff Liaison - The CEO facilitates relationships between the physicians and recognizes that the ongoing strength and success of the organizations relies heavily on the strength and success of our medical staff and engages them accordingly. The CEO also participates in issues surrounding ethics and quality.

Community and Public Relations - Through exceptional communication and interpersonal skills, the CEO assures that the MMC & Pacific Laboratories consistently present a strong, positive image in the CNMI community.

Compliance - The CEO will ensure that MMC & Pacific Laboratories comply with local and U.S. federal laws and regulations as they apply to operations of the clinic.

Strategic Planning - The CEO stays current with the healthcare industry conditions and their potential impact on the organizations' policies and operations. The CEO develops the short-term and long-term strategic plan for the clinic and the services it offers. The CEO ensures the plan is articulated both internally and externally, and effectively delegates key activities to ensure timely execution of the strategic plan initiatives. The CEO assists in developing strategies and implementation plans to improve and standardize all aspects of operations. The CEO tracks resource utilization and manages that data to assist with efficiencies of clinic operations.

Delivery of Healthcare Services - The CEO has overall responsibility for the design, marketing, promotion, delivery, risk management and quality of all healthcare programs and services provided to the community. The CEO ensures that policies and practices effectively support safe patient care, and that the delivery of healthcare services provides the highest level of a positive experience to the patient.

Financial Management - The CEO prepares budget and contingency plans and recommends yearly budgets for Board and Management Company approval and ensures prudent management of the resources within those budgetary guidelines according to current local and U.S. federal laws and regulations. The CEO ensures that operational processes are within the agreed budgets and timelines. The CEO directs and oversees the billing and revenue cycle functions of the clinic and is accountable for the development implementation of business processes that meet or exceed expectations.

Human Resources Management - The CEO ensures effective management of the human resources of the clinic according to current, authorized personnel policies and procedures that fully conform to current local and U.S. federal laws and regulations.

Facilities Management - The CEO oversees the preservation of the asset value of the clinic's capital investments, oversees the management of construction and facility activities, and ensures disaster and emergency preparedness activities are appropriately planned, exercised and documented.

Supervisory responsibilities - The CEO directly supervises the Director for Medical Services, General Manager, Billing Manager and Accountant.

The CEO will perform other duties as assigned by the Board of Directors.

The CEO follows all HIPAA guidelines and maintains confidentiality at all times.

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Interested individuals please send your resume with a list of references, photocopy of a valid photo identification card & updated police clearance to:

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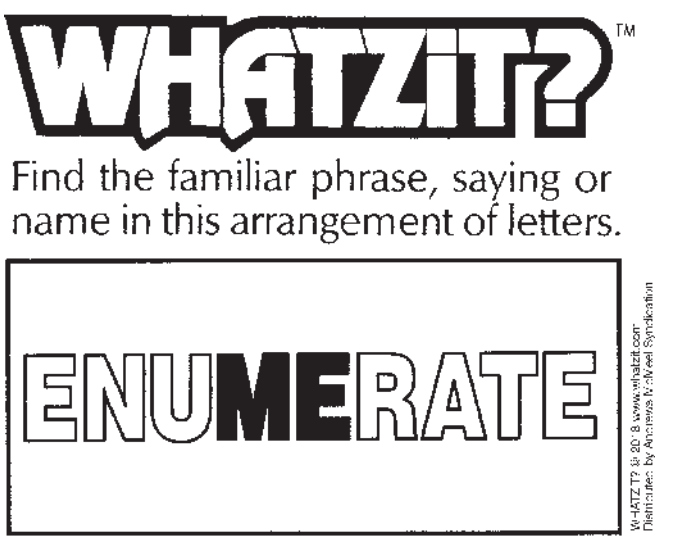
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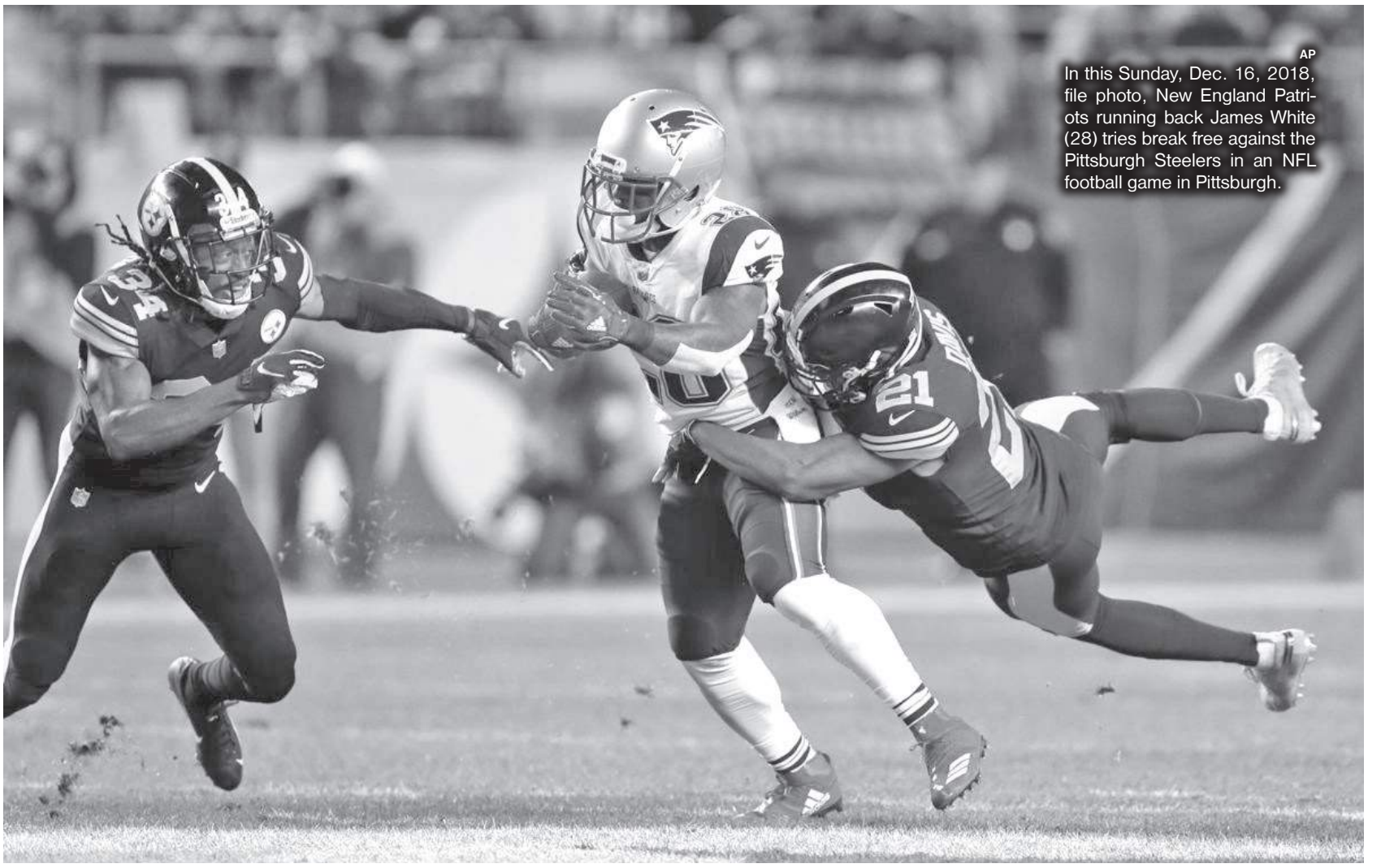

AP
In this Sunday, Dec. 16, 2018, file photo, New England Patriots running back James White (28) tries break free against the Pittsburgh Steelers in an NFL football game in Pittsburgh.

NEW YORK (AP) — The NFL's 100th season will begin with its most classic rivalry and feature the Super Bowl champion Patriots hosting Pittsburgh in the first Sunday night game.

As previously announced, NFL 100 will kick off with Green Bay at Chicago for the 199th meeting of a series that began in 1921. That Sept. 5 game in the Thursday night slot usually reserved for hosting by the NFL champ forced New England to open three nights later.

The Patriots have a home schedule loaded with top attractions, including Kansas City on Dec. 8 in an AFC title game rematch, and Dallas on Nov. 24.

Monday night's doubleheader on ESPN will feature Houston at New Orleans and Denver at Oakland.

"We know every year there seems to be a last-to-first story," said new Broncos coach Vic Fangio, the Bears' defensive coordinator last season. "We were that in Chicago last year. I suppose a lot of teams counted us as a win last year. Every season is a new season and the order they choose for us to play them in, we'll play them in."

Week 2 includes an intriguing Monday night matchup of Cleveland at the New York Jets. The very first Monday nighter was a Browns win over Joe Namath and the defending champion Jets in 1970. This one will feature the return to the Meadowlands for now-Browns receiver Odell Beckham Jr., and two young, potential star quarterbacks in Cleveland's Baker Mayfield and New York's Sam Darnold.

National broadcasts rarely have included the downtrodden Browns, but they're a popular choice this year: Cleveland will have four prime-time games, also facing the Rams, San Francisco and archrival Pittsburgh.

Every team will have at least one national TV appearance. New England, Pittsburgh, Kansas City, Green Bay, Seattle and the Rams get the maximum prime-time games, five.

The traditional Thanksgiving Day games will have Detroit at home to Chicago, then Buffalo at Dallas. The night game to close the holiday schedule will be New Orleans at Atlanta in another long-time rivalry.

The NFC champion Los Angeles Rams will host Cincinnati in London for one of five international games on the 2019 schedule. The Rams and Bengals will face off at Wembley Stadium on Oct. 27.

Earlier in October, the league will play two games at Tottenham Hotspur's new stadium in London. The Raiders will host the Bears on Oct. 6, and the Buccaneers will be the home team against the Panthers on Oct. 13.

Wembley will be the site of the fourth London match, with Houston facing host Jacksonville on Nov. 3.

The league returns to Mexico, after last season's Chiefs-Rams game was moved to Los Angeles because of poor field conditions at Azteca Stadium. On Monday night Nov. 18, the Chiefs will play LA's other team, the Chargers.

In Week 16, the NFL has left 10 teams in semi-limbo. Three games are scheduled for NFL Network on Saturday, Dec. 21, and will be chosen among these five: Detroit at Denver; Oakland at the LA Chargers; Buffalo at New England; the Rams at San Francisco 49ers; and Houston at Tampa Bay. The non-Saturday games will be played Sunday.

The season ends Dec. 29, when Chicago finishes at Minnesota for the fourth successive year. All finales are divisional games for the 11th straight season.

"This is an exciting time," said Giants coach Pat Shurmur, whose team opens at Dallas. "This week, we started the offseason program. And now we can see when we're going to play. We knew who our opponents would be and where we are going to play, but there's an excitement that builds once the schedule comes out."

Among the oddities, in one stretch the Raiders will go seven weeks before playing a game in Oakland. They entertain the Chiefs on Sept. 15, then have road games at Minnesota and Indianapolis, host Chicago in London, are off Oct. 13, then go to Green Bay and Houston. They return to Oakland on Nov. 3.

Miami opens with four 2018 playoff opponents: home for Baltimore and New England, at Dallas, home for the Chargers. Then the Dolphins have a bye.

One team, Philadelphia has three straight home games and three consecutive road games. No other team has three away matches in a row, though the Rams will be away from LA for a visit to Atlanta on Oct. 20, that "home" contest in London the next week, then a bye and a trip to Pittsburgh.

Also with three straight home games will be Green Bay, Atlanta, Arizona, San Francisco, Buffalo, Cleveland, Pittsburgh and Houston.

Tottenham stuns Man City to reach Champions League semis

MANCHESTER, England (AP)—More than two minutes into stoppage time, Manchester City forward Raheem Sterling slid across the field and puffed his chest to the crowd, roaring in elation. Tottenham players collapsed to the turf, some flat on their backs, forlorn and heartbroken.

From the brink of Champions League elimination, Manchester City was celebrating its passage to the semifinals.

Not for long.

As City manager Pep Guardiola was leaping on the touchline, Turkish referee Cüneyt Çakir was receiving updates in his ear from the video assistant referee checking replays.

The stadium soon became hushed until the big screen flashed: "No goal. VAR. Offside."

Guardiola threw his head in his hands, but there was nothing to argue about.

When Christian Eriksen's misplaced back-pass deflected off Bernardo Silva into the path of Sergio Agüero, the City striker was offside before setting up Sterling in the penalty area.

"It's cruel," Guardiola said.

There would be no eighth goal on this breathtaking night of epic drama. Tottenham advanced on away goals following Wednesday's 4-3 loss that left the teams tied 4-4 on aggregate.

City's quadruple dreams were extinguished. Guardiola, a Champions League-winning coach with Lionel Messi's Barcelona in 2009 and 2011, failed to reach the semifinals for the sixth straight time, his third with City after three misses with Bayern Munich.

Instead, Tottenham reached to its first European Cup semifinal in 57 years and will play Ajax. Liverpool meets Barcelona following a 6-1 aggregate win over Porto, giving England multiple clubs in the semifinals for the first time since Manchester United, Arsenal and Chelsea in 2009.

Tottenham advanced thanks to Fernando Llorente's hip, which nudged the ball into the net in the 73rd minute for a goal that survived a VAR review for possible handball. It was the last goal of a night that will be long remembered by clubs that lived in the shadows of larger rivals in their own cities.

"That is why we love football, we feel the passion," Tottenham manager Mauricio Pochettino said." We enjoy watching football, anything can happen.

"Today we showed our great character, great personality. To score three goals against Manchester City is not easy."

Not when top-scorer Harry Kane was out through injury. Not when the midfield options were so depleted that an injury to Moussa Sissoko before halftime before Pochettino to bring on out-of-favor center forward Llorente.

And Tottenham will play the first leg against Ajax without Son Heung-min—Kane's understudy who scored the valuable first-leg goal last week. Son scored Tottenham's first two goals at Etihad Stadium, then picked up a booking for a foul on Kevin De Bruyne that earned him a one-game suspension for yellow card accumulation.

The South Korean showed just how influential he is for Tottenham in a start unlike anything seen before in the Champions League.

Four goals in the opening 11 minutes. The fifth in the 21st minute, after five shots on target.

"The first 10 minutes of this game and the last five was fairytale stuff," Eriksen said.

Sterling put City ahead in just the fourth minute. Son then netted twice to put City in a position where it had to score three more goals to advance.

City did just that to take a 4-2 lead, only for Llorente—and the VAR—to have the last say.

"It was a very tough game, a very crazy game," Son said. "Sometimes you are annoyed with VAR but today it is a case of, 'Thank you and good decision.'"

Sterling got the action started when he received the ball from De Bruyne and evaded Kieran Trippier before bending the ball into the corner past Hugo Lloris.

Within three minutes, Tottenham regained its aggregate advantage after Aymeric Laporte's clearance from Lucas Moura's through ball set up Son to level on the night.

Laporte was again at fault when he gave the ball away in the 10th on the halfway line, setting Moura free to set up Son to put Tottenham 2-1 up.

Not for long. Barely a minute.

Silva was left in space on the right flank to collect the ball and poke it through Danny Rose's legs and into the net in the 21st.

Harden's triple-double helps Rockets rout Jazz

HOUSTON (AP)—James Harden and the Houston Rockets didn't talk about their defeat at home by the Utah Jazz in the second game of their second-round playoff series last season before Game 2 of their first-round matchup on Wednesday night.

The Beard and his teammates were certainly thinking about it though.

Harden put on an MVP performance with 32 points, 13 rebounds and 10 assists to lead the Rockets to a second straight rout of the Utah Jazz, 118-98, for a 2-0 lead in the best-of-seven series.

The Rockets also won Game 1 of last year's series easily before losing that second game in Houston. They ended up winning the series in five games, but talked about the importance of maintaining focus after their 32-point win in Game 1 this season to avoid another such letdown.

It was clear early that they wouldn't have that problem this time around.

"It was important for us to come out aggressive," Harden said. "I think it was our defensive effort."

Harden, who recorded his third career playoff triple-double, had 25 points by halftime in a game the Jazz were all but out of after the first two quarters.

Game 3 is Saturday night in Utah.

Harden controlled the game from the start as the Rockets raced out to a 39-19 lead after a first quarter where he scored just two points fewer than the Jazz.

"What he did in that first quarter was ridiculous," coach Mike D'Antoni said. "Just dicing everybody up. When he gets it rolling nobody's better."

Houston made 6 of 13 3-pointers in the first and Utah hit just one of its 14 tries. The Rockets didn't let up in the second quarter and had pushed their advantage to 70-44 at halftime.

Ricky Rubio was the man tasked with guarding him most of the night.

"He's hard but I'm not going to quit," he said. "He's one of the best scorers of all time and we're going to keep trying to find ways to make his scoring hard."

Bucks 120, Pistons 99

In Milwaukee, Saddled with early foul trouble and faced with an aggressive defensive scheme that kept him in check for the first two quarters, Giannis Antetokounmpo set the tone immediately in the second half.

Antetokounmpo scored 13 of his 26 points in Milwaukee's big third quarter and the Bucks beat the Detroit Pistons to take a 2-0 lead in the first-round playoff series.

After scoring 10 points and playing only 14 minutes in the first half, Antetokounmpo scored Milwaukee's first seven points in the third quarter.

"It is about will," Antetokounmpo said. "I knew they were going to put guys in the paint, crowd me. I just tried to have patience."

As the Bucks took the court after halftime, Eric Bledsoe had some words of advice for the team's leader.

"Eric told me, 'Be aggressive, it is going to come.' That is what I tried to do," Antetokounmpo said.

The Bucks outscored Detroit 35-17 in the period to take a 93-76 lead into the fourth.

"I don't think he felt great about how he played in the first half," Bucks coach Mike Budenholzer said about Antetokounmpo. "When he feels that way, he's going to do something to change it."

Bledsoe led the Bucks with 27 points, and Khris Middleton had 24. Milwaukee is trying to win a series for the first time since 2001.

"We knew they was going to come out with fight," Bledsoe said. "We just had to match their intensity."

Game 3 is Saturday night in Detroit.

Celtics 99, Pacers 91

In Boston, a poor third quarter did the Indiana Pacers in during Game 1 of their first-round series with the Boston Celtics.

In Game 2, Boston seized on a fourth-quarter collapse by Indiana.

Kyrie Irving scored 37 points and Boston rallied late in the fourth quarter to beat Indiana and take a 2-0 lead in the best-of-seven series.

Coming out of a timeout and with a chance for Indiana to tie, the Pacers' Wesley Matthews threw an inbounds pass into the bench on the other side of the court with 12.1 seconds left. On the ensuing play, the Celtics' Al Horford passed to Jayson Tatum, who was fouled on a two-handed dunk. He completed the three-point play to make it 97-91 with 8.8 seconds left.

The Pacers turned it over again and the Celtics were able to close out the game at the free throw line.

Tatum scored 26 points, including his thunderous dunk down the stretch to help punctuate a 10-0 run by Boston over the final five minutes.

Irving said being able to have this kind of performance at TD Garden after sitting out the playoffs last season wasn't lost on him.

"It's just been a long journey," Irving said. "From having those two knee surgeries and watching the team last year and finally getting chance to lace them up for the Boston Celtics in the NBA playoffs—it's nothing like it."

AP

Houston Rockets' Kenneth Faried (35) and Danuel House Jr. (4) reach for a shot by Utah Jazz guard Donovan Mitchell during the first half of Game 2 of a first-round NBA basketball playoff series in Houston, Wednesday, April 17, 2019.

Knicks have hopes for lottery, free agency

NEW YORK (AP)—The first big stop for James Dolan's plane will be to pick up Patrick Ewing, if the Hall of Famer wants a lift to Chicago to represent the Knicks at the draft lottery.

Maybe later it could fly Kevin Durant and another superstar to New York.

With the right mix of lottery luck and summer shopping, the Knicks know the chance is there to quickly improve what was the NBA's worst record this season.

"We're excited," Knicks President Steve Mills said Wednesday, "and we're not going to hide that we're excited and we're optimistic about what we hope the summer leads to."

But, he added, the Knicks are also realistic. They've created the financial flexibility to give themselves the possibility to sign or trade for All-Star players this summer, but there are no guarantees of getting anyone. Especially because Mills said the Knicks would only target players who are on board with the way they want to build a team that can compete for a championship and not just a playoff spot.

First, the Knicks go into the May 14 lottery with a 14% chance of landing the No. 1 pick after finishing with a 17-65 record that matched the worst in franchise history.

It was Dolan, the Madison Square Garden chairman and Knicks owner, who called Mills with the idea of having Ewing represent the team on stage. Ewing was the prize when the Knicks won the first lottery in 1985, and he accepted the Knicks' offer once he knew it wouldn't interfere with his recruiting schedule as Georgetown coach.

Under the league's new lottery rules, the team with the worst record could tumble all the way to the No. 5 pick.

"Our job is to prepare for every possible scenario," general manager Scott Perry said. "So we know going into this draft we can either end up with 1, best-case scenario, 5, quote-unquote worst-case scenario, and we work all year long to be very prepared to tackle either scenario. And we'll be comfortable doing so."

Perry added it was too soon to even discuss whether the Knicks would consider trading the pick, wherever it falls.

No matter who the Knicks get during the offseason, they will need to determine who they want back from a team that was full of players who will become free agents. Mills said every player they met with after the season expressed an interest in returning in 2019-20.

Griffin: Gentry staying, and perhaps Davis, too

Meanwhile, the Pelicans newly hired top basketball executive said he's keeping coach Alvin Gentry and wouldn't out the possibility of talking six-time All-Star Anthony Davis into rescinding his trade request and committing to New Orleans long-term.

"We have a very long and successful history together with Klutch Sports," Pelicans executive vice president of basketball operations David Griffin said Wednesday, referring to the agency, led by Rich Paul, that represents Davis. "Rich Paul and I have spoken about Anthony and I think we're both excited about what we can potentially build here."

Griffin was Cleveland's general manager when LeBron James—who also is represented by Paul—was with the Cavaliers and led them to the franchise's only NBA title.

Davis, who is under contract with the Pelicans for one more season, requested a trade in late January. In the aftermath, the Pelicans fired general manager Dell Demps, who has been effectively replaced by Griffin, albeit under a different title.

The Pelicans hired Griffin on Friday and formally introduced him on Wednesday.

Griffin said he has not yet met with Davis, but disputed the notion that Davis' situation in New Orleans became too toxic to salvage.

"Quite the opposite, actually," Griffin said. "Rich is genuinely excited about this situation. Rich represents the greatest player of his generation and he saw LeBron buy into what we were doing and our direction (in Cleveland) and the respect he had for what we did."

Dodgers tie home HRs record in win over Reds

LOS ANGELES (AP)—No team in major league history has homered in more consecutive home games than these Los Angeles Dodgers.

They only got one against Sonny Gray and the Cincinnati Reds, and it was all they needed.

A.J. Pollock hit a three-run homer in the sixth inning, and the Dodgers tied the big-league record by hitting a homer in their 32nd consecutive home game during a 3-2 victory Wednesday.

Pollock broke open a scoreless game when he connected off Gray (0-3), providing the Dodgers with all of their runs in their fourth consecutive victory. The Dodgers don't ascribe much importance to their streak, other than the majors-best nine home victories generated from it.

"It's a cool stat, for sure," Pollock said. "Honestly, there's a lot of power on this team. These guys are really trying to do damage. They're trying to get pitches to hit, and we like hitting at home."

Los Angeles has homered in every regular season game at Dodger Stadium since last Aug. 21, including 13 straight this season. While the Dodgers matched the mark set by the Colorado Rockies over three months of the 1999 season, they won't get the chance to break it until April 26 when they return from a road trip.

Gray remained winless with the Reds despite a fourth straight solid start, yielding only two hits and striking out nine over six innings.

AP
Los Angeles Dodgers shortstop Corey Seager fields a ball hit by Cincinnati Reds' Curt Casali during the sixth inning of a baseball game, Wednesday, April 17, 2019, in Los Angeles.

Royals 4, White Sox 3, 10 innings

In Chicago, Fiercely energetic Tim Anderson spiked his bat to celebrate a home run and Kansas City's Brad Keller responded by drilling him with a fastball, setting off a benches-clearing fracas in the Royals' victory over the White Sox

Anderson tossed his bat toward the White Sox dugout following his two-run drive in the fourth inning. Keller hit him in the buttocks with his first pitch leading off the sixth.

Anderson, the AL's leading hitter, was restrained by Royals catcher Martin Maldonado but kept jawing with Keller on the way to first base. The dugouts and bullpens emptied, though no punches appeared to be thrown.

Yankees 5, Red Sox 3

In New York, Brett Gardner hit a grand slam off Ryan Brasier in the seventh inning for his 100th career home run, and the Yankees rallied to beat the Boston Red Sox for a two-game sweep of the reeling World Series champions.

J.D. Martinez hit a first-inning home run off Yankees starter J.A. Happ, just like he did in the AL Division Series opener last October, and Christian Vázquez hit a two-run homer in the second for a 3-0 lead.

Pirates 3, Tigers 2, 10 innings

In Detroit, Colin Moran hit an RBI single in the 10th inning and the Pittsburgh Pirates beat the Tigers.

The Pirates beat Detroit in 10 innings for a second straight night, and this was Pittsburgh's sixth extra-inning game already this season. The Pirates are 4-2 in those.

Spencer Turnbull allowed two hits in six innings for Detroit, but he was denied his first career win after reliever Joe Jiménez loaded the bases with nobody out in the eighth.

Pittsburgh star Starling Marte was beaned by Jiménez during that eighth inning, but he remained in the game and hit a single in the 10th.

Cubs 6, Marlins 0

In Miami, Cole Hamels pitched seven strong innings and the Chicago Cubs completed a three-game sweep of the Miami Marlins.

Hamels (3-0) allowed three hits and did not walk a batter. He struck out eight while throwing 65 of his 97 pitches for strikes.

Daniel Descalso had two hits and three RBIs, Javier Baez homered and knocked in two, and Jason Heyward also drove in a run for the Cubs, who have won five of six.

Cardinals 6, Brewers 3

In Milwaukee, Michael Wacha cooled off NL MVP Christian Yelich, Matt Carpenter and Marcell Ozuna each went deep, and St. Louis beat the Brewers to avoid being swept.

Yelich came in batting .556 with four home runs and 10 RBIs in the series, but he was 0 for 2 with a strikeout and a walk against Wacha. Yelich did single in a run in the eighth off Andrew Miller.

Phillies 3, Mets 2

In Philadelphia, Jake Arrieta pitched neatly into the ninth inning, Scott Kingery and Cesar Hernandez hit solo homers and Philadelphia beat New York.

Hector Neris blew a 95 mph fastball past Keon Broxton with a 3-2 count and the bases loaded for the final out and his second save.

Arrieta (3-1) allowed two runs and six hits, inducing three double-play grounders. The veteran righty has pitched like the ace who won the 2015 NL Cy Young Award with the Cubs.

Diamondbacks 3, Braves 2, 10 innings

In Atlanta, Adam Jones worked a bases-loaded walk against Jesse Biddle in the 10th inning and also homered, lifting the Arizona Diamondbacks over the Braves.

Biddle (0-1) filled the bases and then walked Jones on six pitches. Jones also homered in the fourth inning and scored the tying run in the seventh on Ketel Marte's double. Arizona has won a season-best three-straight.

Arizona's Greg Holland struck out Josh Donaldson and Freddie Freeman in the 10th before Ronald Acuña Jr. looped an opposite-field single to right.

Indians 1, Mariners 0

In Seattle, Carlos Carrasco rebounded from one of his worst starts with 12 strikeouts, Jake Bauers hit a solo homer and the Cleveland Indians beat the Seattle Mariners to complete a three-game sweep.

Carrasco (2-2) pitched three-hit ball over seven innings, dominating as the Indians handed Seattle its sixth straight loss. The right-hander struck out the side three times and only allowed one baserunner to reach third base.

Rays 8, Orioles 1

In St. Petersburg, Brandon Lowe, Ji-Man Choi and Yandy Diaz homered and the Tampa Bay Rays beat the Baltimore Orioles.

Choi reached based four straight times on two hits and two walks, and Mike Zunino had three of the Rays' 13 hits as they won for the eighth time in nine games.

Nationals 9, Giants 6

In Washington, Juan Soto and Howie Kendrick hit first-inning home runs, Matt Adams and Kurt Suzuki connected in the seventh, and the Washington Nationals beat the San Francisco Giants.

Soto's two-run drive, Kendrick's solo shot and an RBI single by Adam Eaton put Washington ahead 4-0 against Jeff Samardzija (1-1) in the second.

Gerardo Parra and Steven Duggar each hit two-run homers in the ninth for San Francisco.

Nadal opens clay season with easy win

MONACO (AP)—Back on his favorite surface, Rafael Nadal showed no lingering effects of a recent injury as he breezed into the third round of the Monte Carlo Masters on Wednesday with a 6-1, 6-1 win against Roberto Bautista Agut.

Nadal was making his season debut on clay and playing his first match since suffering a knee injury at Indian Wells one month ago , but the defending champion looked sharp from the start and secured an early break of serve for 2-0.

Aside from having to save five break points across two games—at 0-40 down in the fourth game and at 15-40 in the sixth—Nadal was otherwise untroubled by his Spanish countryman. The 17-time Grand Slam champion converted his first match point when he met his opponent's strong forehand with a crisp volley at the net.

"I was able to move well and be confident in the things that I did," the 32-year-old Nadal said. "Now what I need is to play matches, spend hours on court, and of course the victories help. Every victory is a positive energy, confidence in the game, confidence in the body. Today was a good start."

Nadal is looking to win the clay-court tournament for a record-extending 12th time and increase his Masters record to 34 titles. He next plays Grigor Dimitrov, whom he has beaten 11 times in 12 matches. One of Nadal's wins against the unseeded Bulgarian was in last year's semifinal.

Third-seeded Alexander Zverev, No. 4 Dominic Thiem, No. 6 Stefanos Tsitsipas, No. 10 Daniil Medvedev, and No. 13 Fabio Fognini also advanced to the third round Wednesday. But No. 5 Kei Nishikori, who lost to Nadal in last year's final, was beaten by Pierre-Hugues Herbert 7-5, 6-4.

Zverev won 6-1, 6-4 against Felix Auger-Aliassime, breaking the 18-year-old Canadian's serve six times, while French Open runner-up Thiem won by the same score against Martin Klizan.

Tsitsipas downed Mikhail Kukushkin 6-3, 7-5 and next faces Medvedev. The Russian beat Radu Albot 6-1, 6-2, while Fognini had a walkover after Gilles Simon pulled out with a back injury and next takes on Zverev.

There were also second-round wins for unseeded players Dimitrov, Taylor Fritz, Cameron Norrie, and Dusan Lajovic.

Fritz won 6-4, 6-2 against Diego Schwartzman and the 21-year-old American next plays top-ranked Novak Djokovic .

Norrie beat Marton Fucsovics 7-6 (3), 6-3, Dimitrov won 7-6 (2), 6-4 against Jan-Lennard Struff, and Lajovic upset No. 16 David Goffin of Belgium 6-3, 6-4.

Kanoa secures co-ed U12 division title

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Kanoa Football Club bagged the co-ed U12 division crown in the 2019 NMIFA Spring Youth League following another victory last Saturday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

Kanoa downed TanHoldings FC, 7-2, to improve its win-draw-loss record to 7-0-0. Only two playing weekends (April 27 and May 4) are left in the three-round robin contest and Kanoa is four victories ahead of TanHoldings and MP United.

Paul Lizama stood out in Kanoa's triumph over TanHoldings after making four goals. Taehun Han added two goals, while Tyler Omelau had one. Andre Kaitlyn Chavez drilled the pair of goals for TanHoldings.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Two Kanoa Football Club players go for the ball during an earlier game against Shirley's FC in the co-ed U12 division of the 2019 NMIFA Spring Youth League at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

In the other co-ed U12 match, Shirley's notched its first win of the season after stunning MP United, 3-1. Jurvin Bisek and Edward Arriola scored for Shirley's, which got an own goal right in the second minute of the game. Kelly McCallion registered the only goal for MP United.

BOYS U15 DIVISION
Kanoa-1 9, Kanoa-2 0

Kanoa-1 is also on track to its title bid in the boys U15 division after keeping its record perfect following a rout of Kanoa-2

Sean Gil fired three goals in Kanoa-1's lopsided win, while Markus Toves and Jaydee Jose chipped in two each, and Jim Maniago and Merrick Toves added one apiece.

MP United 8, TanHoldings 0

MP United is in contention, too, for the division crown, as it dominated TanHoldings and is just one victory behind Kanoa-1.

Dylan Mister made two goals for MP United, which drew one goal each from six different players to hammer TanHoldings.

Shirley's 9, Matansa 0

Shirley's also cruised to victory last weekend after blanking Matansa.

Rakib Hassan led Shirley's assault after scoring four goals. Devin Igisomar was equally impressive after bagging three goals, while Harry Kapwich and Ratul Robait contributed one each.

BOYS U18
MP United 3, Matansa 2

MP United closed in on the division championship after nosing out Matansa last Friday.

Joshua Abragan drilled the go-ahead goal in the 49th minute, while Jason Quiamzon and Sunjoon Tenorio scored the two other goals for MP United. Raffy Lee and Razeff Altamirano delivered the pair of goals for Matansa.

With the win, MP United kept its undefeated record and moved two victories ahead of TanHoldings with two matches left in the double-round robin competition.

TanHoldings 5, Kanoa 0

In the other match in the division, TanHoldings shut down Kanoa.

Joshua Waldo hit the board first for TanHoldings and Joshua Mendez handed the team its second goal before Mark Esalan finished off Kanoa with his hat trick.

Meanwhile, there will be no games in the league this weekend in observance of the Lenten season.

NMIFA Spring Youth League Standings
(As of April 15, 2019)

CO-ED U12 DIVISION

Teams	G	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
Kanoa	7	7	0	0	53	8	45	21
MP United	7	3	0	4	20	26	-6	9
TanHoldings	7	3	0	4	24	31	-7	9
Shirley's	7	1	0	6	11	43	-32	3

BOYS U15 DIVISION

Kanoa-1	7	7	0	0	59	3	56	21
MP United	7	6	0	1	33	5	28	18
TanHoldings	7	4	0	3	32	21	11	12
Shirley's	7	3	0	4	22	26	-4	9
Matansa	7	1	0	6	12	36	-24	3
Kanoa-2	7	0	0	7	5	72	-67	0

BOYS U18 DIVISION

MP United	6	6	0	0	33	5	28	18
TanHoldings	6	4	0	2	23	9	14	12
Matansa	5	3	0	2	12	11	1	9
Kanoa	6	1	0	5	8	34	-26	3
U15NT	5	0	0	5	2	19	-17	0

FIRST

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sixth defeat in as many games.

NMI U18 4, Paire 1

The CNMI Boys U18 National Team won the battle of the Top 2 squads in the division.

Sunjoon Tenorio knocked in a pair of goals, while John Michael Rojas and Sebastien Manabat added one each for the NMI U18, which is still undefeated after six matches. Daniel Agulto delivered the lone goal for Paire, which absorbed its first loss of the season.

Before bowing to the NMI U18, Paire notched its fifth victory last April 11 after outclassing Kanoa, 5-3.

Agulto had a hat trick in that triumph, scoring in the 18th, 42nd, and 72nd minute, while Joe Miller and Alan Gudino hit the board in the 54th and 84th, respectively.

Kanoa's three goals all came from Andruw Omelau, who got his first in the 24th minute and then completed penalty kicks in the 66th and 76th.

Old B Bank 4, TanHoldings 1

The Old B Bank gave Japanese player Dan Ito a win in his very short stint in the league.

Ito, who played in 22 countries in Asia and the Pacific, suited up for the Old B Bank and got a brief taste of Saipan football, teaming up with Hwapyoung Kim and Kosuke Sato in handing their squad the victory.

The former J League player scored the Old B Bank's last goal (86th minute), while Kim registered two (15th and 36th) and Sato added one in the 67th for their team's third win.

Mark Esalan posted the lone goal for TanHoldings.

Spring Men's M-League Standings
(As of April 15, 2019)

DIVISION A

Teams	MP	W	D	L	PTS	GF	GA	GD
NMI U18	6	6	0	0	18	26	3	23
Paire	6	5	0	1	15	21	8	13
Old B Bank	6	3	0	3	9	13	13	0
TanHoldings	6	3	0	3	9	18	12	6
Kanoa	6	2	1	3	7	20	24	-4
KFAS	6	1	1	4	4	15	29	-14
Matansa	6	0	0	6	0	7	31	-24

DIVISION B

Shirley's	6	5	0	1	15	26	14	12
Sun Palace	6	4	0	2	12	20	20	0
PIC	6	3	0	3	9	21	21	0
WNT	6	0	0	6	0	10	22	-12

TRIUMPHANT

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won regularly in Saipan and Guam events, participated in the Tokyo Junior Sprint, and joined training swim camps in Japan. She marked a CNMI age group national record at the Guam Championships 2018 and last year was selected as a CNMI representative to the FINA World Championships in China," Kimura said.

Unfortunately, Watanabe had to miss the World Championships trip due to health concerns and according to Kimura, the former also stopped swimming for awhile. However, Watanabe rejoined her teammates late last year and quickly regained her old top form.

"We set our first target for Micronesian Swimming Championships and Aika hit that goal and has proven that she is one of the top swimmers in Micronesia. After the tournament, I wish for her to go to the World Championships in Korea this summer, Kimura said.

Though he is proud that Watanabe had a triumphant return in Palau and has a strong chance of making it to the World Championships this year, Kimura is more impressed with how his swimmer inspires her teammates, especially the younger ones.

"There are so many young Tsunami Saipan swimmers who look up to her," said Kimura.

The Tsunami Saipan coach said Watanabe serves as a mentor to Ashley Dangol, Shoko and Asaka Litulumar, Julia Jinang, Aoi Braxton, Ayumi Obligacion, Michelle Chen, Cassie and Fiona Reagan, and Maria Batallones. Tsunami Saipan's batch of young swimmers, according to Kimura, will also make their mark in the sport in the near future.

COMETS

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Melvin Tudela, and Ezra Ada made it home from the Comets' error at third base.

Dela Cruz was McDonald's starting pitcher and gave up only one earned run in 5.2 innings he worked the mound, allowing only four hits and striking out 11 batters. He forced the Comets to a 1-2-3 at the bottom of the first after catching two fly balls and a 1-3 putout play.

Then in the second inning, Dela Cruz gave up a double to leadoff Jesus Tyquengco, but left him stranded there after fanning the Comets' next three batters. The Comets finally scored one against Dela Cruz in the third inning with Sam Aldan's RBI single, but the McDonald's pitcher quickly redeemed himself with back-to-back strikeouts to go with his first on second batter Joe Macaranas.

McDonald's got the one run back at the top of the fourth with Agulto reaching off Santos' sacrifice fly and the team kept the 6-1 advantage when Dela Cruz struck out the Comets' first three batters at the bottom.

The tally remained, going into the sixth inning, as neither team scored in the fifth. Then at the top of the sixth and last inning, Isaiah Mesa gave McDonald's more cushion, 7-1, with his run off a passed ball. McDonald's had a chance to get a few more runs in the penultimate inning with the bases loaded, but Lance Acosta was caught stealing second for the third out and the Comets' turn to bat for the last time.

The Comets went on to be slapped with two quick outs with Dela Cruz catching a fly from leadoff batter Joshua Yorormad and Tyquenco, who batted third. Second batter Justin Camacho gave the Comets the needed break when he scored off McDonald's' error and their team stayed afloat when Greg Tebit also reached off Isidro Lizama's double. However, Lizama was stuck at second and James Blas at third after Ada, who relieved Dela Cruz after the Comets were called for the two outs, fanned Jayvin Camacho to wrap up the match.

Patriots open vs Steelers; 5 international games

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Swimming Center Tsunami Saipan's Aika Watanabe poses with the medals and most outstanding swimmer award she won in the Inaugural Micronesian Swimming Championships held in Palau early this month.

Triumphant return for Watanabe

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

After stepping away from the pool, Swimming Center Tsunami Saipan's Aika Watanabe returned via the Inaugural Micronesian Swimming Championships and stood out in the competition held in Palau early this month.

The 15-year-old, who was sidelined by health concerns last season, won nine gold medals (including relays) and three silvers in the April 4 to 7 event to earn the most outstanding swimmer award in the star division (13 and over age group). Watanabe topped the 50m butterfly (32.22 seconds) of the short course meet and also prevailed in the 100m backstroke (1:12.85), 200m backstroke (2:46.85), 100m individual medley (1:15.05), 50m backstroke (34.25 seconds), 50m butterfly (32.22 seconds), and 100m backstroke (1:12.85). She was part of the CNMI Team's relay team that notched gold medals in the mixed 200m freestyle and 200m medley and defeated fellow Commonwealth swimmers, a World Championships participant from Palau, and Pohnpei and Marshall Islands bets.

"Palau was a really tough meet, but I really enjoyed it. We had interactions with other swimming teams in Micronesia, exchanging caps and shirts. I was really happy and surprised (at winning the most outstanding award) at the same time," Watanabe said.

All these achievements were really unexpected as they came less than a year after the Grace Christian Academy student stepped out of the pool due to some health issues. Watanabe's coach, Hiro Kimura, was beaming with pride on how the club's accomplished leader recovered successfully and decided to continue her journey that started when she was just 9 years old.

"Aika improved steadily since joining us when she was 9. She

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First season win for KFAS

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Matansa Football Club, left, and Korean Football Association on Saipan players get tangled up as they fight for the ball during the second half of their Division A game in the 2019 Spring Men's M-League last Sunday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Korean Football Association on Saipan finally broke into the win column this season following an 8-2 triumph over Matansa Football Club in the Division A game in the 2019 Spring Men's M-League last Sunday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

Junsik Kim towed KFAS to its first win after scoring four goals. He drilled all four in the first half to lift KFAS to a 5-1 advantage. The striker had back-to-back for his team after hitting the board in the ninth and 28th minute, while his last two were also in consecutive fashion—33rd and 35th. Bada Lee recorded the other goal for KFAS in the first half with his shot in the 30th minute, while Matansa's lone goal was courtesy of Jacob Montes-Sabino in the 15th minute.

In the second half, two other KFAS players scored with Juan Oh making a pair (77th and 82nd minute) and Scott Kim firing one in the 67th. Again, Matansa countered with only one goal, which came from Kamrul Kamrul in the 82nd minute.

While KFAS finally snapped its losing skid, Matansa's struggle this season continued, as it absorbed its

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McDonald's brings down Comets

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

McDonald's earned its second win in the Majors division of the 2019 Saipan Little League Baseball after outclassing the Comets, 7-3, last Sunday at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

McDonald's got off to a good start and held the Comets to one run in the first five innings to move back on track after losing to the defending champions Kagman Little Legals last week.

First baseman Dillon Santos fired up McDonald's, as he blasted a one-run homer at the top of the first inning. McDonald's went on to score three more runs for a promising 5-0 lead. Joey Dela Cruz reached off Casey Chambers' single, while Jordan Agulto's single also drove in

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
A McDonald's runner gets ready to sprint from first base during their game against the Kagman Little Legals in the Majors division of the 2019 Saipan Little League Baseball last Saturday at the Capital Hill Ballfield.